



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP
SEVENTEENTH MEETING (APIRG/17)
(Burkina Faso, 2 to 6 August 2010)**

**Agenda Item 5: Status of Implementation of Special AFI Regional Air Navigation
(SP AFI/08 RAN) Recommendations and follow- up**

**Implementation of Quality Management System in
Aeronautical Meteorology and Preparation and issuance
SIGMETs for Aviation Safety in the AFI Region**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The ICAO Council has set November, 2012 as the date of the introduction of Quality Management System as a Standard in Annex 3. AFI States are facing a challenge to meet this deadline unless concrete steps are taken to support the States. The first African Ministers responsible for meteorology at their meeting resolved that all necessary steps be taken to ensure that AFI meteorological services meet ICAO requirements on QMS by November 2012. Support has been difficult to come by to assist in training of trainers in QMS to enable States to implement QMS for aeronautical meteorological services. States still face challenges to adequately implement SIGMETs for aviation safety. The AFI Comprehensive Implementation programme (ACIP) support is recommended to address these challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting will recall that recommendation 6/15 of the Special AFI Regional Air Navigation (SP AFI/08 RAN) Meeting, calls for APIRG to adopt the MET Performance Objective: Foster the Implementation of SIGMET and quality management system (QMS) in the AFI Region as contained in the performance framework form in Appendix F to the Report on Agenda Item; Recommendation 6/16 highlighted the need for ICAO to identify potential sources of technical and financial support for States for the implementation of quality management systems (QMS) in the field of Meteorology, and Recommendation 6/17 calls for APIRG to adopt the Performance Objective: Foster the implementation of terminal area warnings and forecasts, provision of world area forecast system (WAFS) forecasts and optimization

of OPMET data exchanges as contained in Appendix G to the report on Agenda Item 6.

1.2 Implementation of Recommendations 6/15 and 6/17 has not progressed due to limited funds and lack of trained personnel has not allowed further implementation of QMS and terminal area warnings and forecasts, provision of world area forecast system (WAFS) forecasts and optimization of OPMET data exchanges. Under Recommendation 6/16, ICAO, in collaboration with other donors, attempted to identify potential sources of technical and financial support for States for the implementation of QMS in the field of aeronautical meteorology and training of MET personnel, but there is a lack of enthusiasm to provide the said support.

1.3 In this regard, therefore, it is proposed to add the implementation of QMS and training of meteorological watch offices (MWOs) personnel on SIGMET preparation and issuance to the AFI Comprehensive Implementation Programme (ACIP) on a prioritized basis.

2. DISCUSSION

Implementation of QMS in the Field of Aeronautical Meteorology

2.1 Further to Conclusion 16/59 of the APIRG/16 Meeting “*Support to States to Implement Quality Management System*” and the above mentioned Recommendation 6/15 of the SP AFI/08 RAN Meeting, two training workshops in English and French were conducted jointly by ICAO and WMO in Nairobi, Kenya and Casablanca, Morocco, for the awareness of AFI States on the implementation of QMS in the field of aeronautical meteorology.

2.2 Another workshop for SADC States sponsored by SADC Secretariat and the Finnish Meteorological Institute(FMI) was conducted in Pretoria, South Africa in March, 2010. From the pool of these personnel provided with basic training, there is an urgent need to train trainers to spearhead the implementation of QMS as Quality Managers.

2.3 The current provisions, *Recommended Practice*, of Annex 3 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation require States to implement the QMS .Effective November, 2012, this Recommended Practice shall be upgraded to a Standard.” *Each Contracting State shall ensure that the designated meteorological authority referred to in 2.1.4 establishes and implements a properly organized quality system comprising procedures, processes and resources necessary to provide for the quality management of the meteorological information to be supplied to the users listed in 2.1.2”.*

Implementation of SIGMETS

2.4 Based on the SIGMET tests undertaken during the last two years it is evidently clear that there is a need to re-train personnel operating meteorological watch offices in the AFI region. This has raised concerns from operators on the quality and availability of this critical safety information. It appears that a lack of

qualified forecasters of the Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) in the region, is of a great concern.

3. **CONCLUSION**

3.1 From the above discussions urgent action is required to address the two priority projects identified.

3.2 In order to train MWO qualified personnel to improve SIGMET information in the AFI Region and to expedite initiation of the implementation of QMS, MWO personnel training and the train trainers' course is now considered as a priority project for implementation under the ACIP Programme. Although the need for implementation can also be forwarded to donors and other stakeholders in line with Assembly Resolution A36-1, experience has shown that, at best, the process can take a long time that the objectives of the Recommendations, Council Decision and the Resolution may not be met on time before the deadline. In this regard, the APIRG/17 may wish to formulate the following Conclusion:

Conclusion 17/XX: Training of meteorological personnel at meteorological watch offices (MWOs) for the the implementation of the QMS and SIGMETs under ACIP

That selected meteorological watch offices (MWOs) personnel be provided with additional in SIGMETs preparation and issuance and be also be trained as trainers in Quality Management System (QMS). The training be accorded a high a priority project for implementation under ACIP.

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