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**SATELLITE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP (SADISOPSG)**

**EIGHTEENTH MEETING**

**Dakar, Senegal, 29 to 31 May 2013**

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| **Agenda Item** | **10:** | **Any other business** |

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| **Agenda Item** | **10:** | **Any other business** |

**SADIS administrative messages**

The group was apprised that the seventh meeting of the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG/7, 17 to 21 September 2012, Lima) had formulated WAFSOPSG Conclusion 7/8 inviting the world area forecast centre (WAFC) Provider States to issue administrative messages on the WAFS broadcast (SADIS 2G, Secure SADIS FTP and WIFS) to inform users of, *inter alia*, new or updated guidance, system documentation or changes to world area forecast system (WAFS) services.

Taking WAFSOPSG Conclusion 7/8 into account, and following correspondence between the SADIS Provider State and the Secretaries of the WAFSOPSG and the SADISOPSG, the group was informed that it had been considered appropriate by the parties concerned to extend the referred notification to include updates to SADIS documentation. In this regard, the group was informed that the WAFC London Provider State (SADIS Provider State) had already implemented the issuance of SADIS administrative messages to notify SADIS users of, *inter-alia*, new or updated guidance, system documentation or changes to WAFS/SADIS-related services.

The group considered a proposal to refine the definitions of the administrative messages (specifically NOUK10 EGRR and NOUK11 EGRR) used on SADIS to take account of the referred developments. Additionally, the group considered whether NOUK11 EGRR and NOUK13 EGRR administrative messages used on SADIS should also be made available on a SADIS Operational Administration Message webpage[[1]](#footnote-1) hosted by the SADIS Provider, in addition to the existing availability of the NOUK10 EGRR administrative messages. The group was informed that this would be a convenient method of informing users of updates to SADIS-related documentation, that the work to implement this functionality would be trivial and would not require additional resource on the part of the SADIS Provider, and that it would be complementary their existing an continued availability on the SADIS 2G satellite broadcast and the Secure SADIS FTP service.

In view of the foregoing, the group concurred with the proposals and formulated the following conclusions accordingly:

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|  | **Conclusion 18/xx —** | **Revised definitions of SADIS administrative messages NOUK10 EGRR and NOUK11 EGRR** |
| That,   1. the SADIS Provider, with effect 1 June 2013, be invited to issue NOUK10 EGRR and NOUK11 EGRR administrative messages on SADIS as per the revised definitions presented at **Appendix N** to this report; and, 2. the SADIS Provider and the SADIS Gateway Provider, in coordination with the Secretary, be invited to update respective SADIS-related documentation associated with a) above in time for the SADISOPSG/19 meeting. | |

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|  | **Conclusion 18/xx —** | **Availability of SADIS administrative messages NOUK11 EGRR and NOUK13 EGRR on the SADIS Operational Administrative Messages webpage** |
| That, the SADIS Provider State be invited to arrange for SADIS administrative messages NOUK11 EGRR and NOUK13 EGRR to be made available on the SADIS Operational Administrative Messages webpage ([www.metoffice.gov.uk/sadis/news](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/sadis/news)) by 25 June 2013.  *Note. ― SADIS administrative messages will continue to be made available on the SADIS 2G satellite broadcast and the Secure SADIS FTP service.* | |

**SADIS registration form**

The group recalled that at its fifteenth meeting in 2010 it had formulated Conclusion 15/19 whereby the SADIS Provider was to request that all existing users of SADIS systems – SADIS 2G and the (now decommissioned) Classic SADIS FTP service – register/re-register for the Secure SADIS FTP service. This registering/reregistering process was required to ensure that the SADIS Provider could confirm, without doubt, that all requests for access to the service were to bona fide users, and to update what were, in some instances, rather old and out-of-date contact details.

Now that the Classic SADIS FTP service had been withdrawn (in November 2012 in accordance with Conclusion 16/15), the group noted that the existing registration/re-registration form was no longer suitable, but that the benefits from using such a registration form had proven so useful that it was proposed that it be replaced with a suitably modified, more general SADIS user registration form. Accordingly, the group reviewed a proposed update to the SADIS user registration form, and was reassured that the registration process described therein did not replace the need for a user to seek the necessary SADIS authorized access approval – i.e. by the meteorological authority of the State concerned, as described in the SADIS User Guide. Instead, the SADIS user registration form, as described, would augment the SADIS authorized access process by ensuring that, once approved, all users supply the same, structured information in a formal manner to the SADIS Provider.

Having completed its review of the proposed update to the SADIS user registration form, making further minor improvements where necessary, the group formulated the following conclusion accordingly:

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|  | **Conclusion 18/xx —** | **SADIS User Registration Form** |
| That,   1. the SADIS User Registration Form, as presented at **Appendix O** to this report, be used by States/users forthwith to augment the existing authorized access to the SADIS process described in the SADIS User Guide; and 2. the Secretary be invited to replace the existing Secure SADIS FTP Registration Form available on the SADISOPSG webpage with the SADIS User Registration Form referred to in a) above, by 31 August 2013. | |

**ICAO provisions regarding WAFS satellite distribution systems and Internet-based services**

The group considered whether amendment to or clarification of references to the world area forecast system (WAFS) satellite distribution systems and Internet-based services was required in ICAO provisions, taking account recent developments – such as the cessation of the ISCS G2 satellite broadcasts by the WAFC Washington Provider State in July 2012 – and their intended use in time-critical or non-time critical aeronautical applications.

The group considered the WAFS services in the context of the ICAO aeronautical fixed service – of which SADIS 2G is and the recently decommissioned ISCS G2 satellite broadcasts were a component of – and the public Internet[[2]](#footnote-2) – of which the Secure SADIS FTP and WIFS rely upon in terms of underlying infrastructure to support service delivery. The group recalled that Amendment 75 to Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* had enabled the operational use of the public Internet in aeronautical (meteorological) applications. More specifically, since November 2010, it has been permissible to use the public Internet for the exchange of *non-time critical* meteorological information. Annex 3 provisions in this regard were supported by the *Guidelines on the Use of the Public Internet for Aeronautical Applications* (Doc 9855), which details the meteorological information that constitutes being non-time critical.

Appreciating that the public Internet could not be assured for the provision of information for time-critical operational decisions, the group therefore concluded that the Secure SADIS FTP service and WIFS could not be considered as part of the AFS. Instead, Secure SADIS FTP and WIFS were considered as part of the public Internet, used only for non-time critical aeronautical applications including pre-flight planning. Acknowledging that SADIS 2G was considered part of the AFS, the group noted that SADIS 2G could therefore be used for time-critical and non-time critical aeronautical applications, since the characteristics of the AFS[[3]](#footnote-3) would ensure that the (meteorological) messages and/or data exchanged using the SADIS 2G would be received in a timely manner.

In view of the foregoing, the group identified that Annex 3 provisions relating to the WAFS satellite distribution systems and Internet-based services warranted review and update by the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG). The group formulated the following conclusion accordingly:

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|  | **Conclusion 18/xx —** | **Description of the WAFS satellite distribution systems and Internet-based services in Annex 3** |
| That, the Secretariat develop, through the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG), a draft amendment proposal to Annex 3 *– Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*, to appropriately reference to the one remaining WAFS satellite distribution system and the two existing WAFS Internet-based services provided by the WAFC Provider States.  *Note. ― Specific attention should be paid to Annex 3, 3.5.1 c) 3), 3.7 b) 3), Note 1 to 11.1.19, Appendix 3, 3.1.1, Appendix 5, 1.6, and Appendix 6, 1.2.2 and 2.2.2.* | |

Welcoming the information that had been provided, the group remarked that, going forwards, there may be a need for ICAO to consider the clarity of Doc 9855 in respect of the immediacy of where *non-time-critical* implies that the information being transferred over the Internet has *no immediate effect* on an active flight (Doc 9855, First Edition (2005), Foreword refers).

**Next meeting**

The group recalled an intention of ICAO to convene a Meteorology Divisional Meeting in July 2014 – which had recently been agreed to by the ICAO Council Appreciating that the SADISOPSG convenes annually on a rotational basis at the ICAO Regional Offices, usually in May or June of each year, to ensure that the necessary outputs can be sufficiently brought to the attention of the SADIS Cost Recovery Administrative Group (SCRAG) and, where necessary, the Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs), the group gave due consideration to the convening of the next meeting (SADISOPSG/19) taking into account the timing of the Meteorology Divisional Meeting.

Concerning the venue of the SADISOPSG/19 meeting, noting in particular that the last five meetings had been held in the ASIA Region (Bangkok, 2009), the EUR Region (Paris, 2010 and 2011), the MID Region (Cairo, 2012) and the AFI Region (Dakar, 2013), the group agreed that SADISOPSG/19 should be held at the Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand.

Concerning the timing of the SADISOPSG/19 meeting, the group agreed that SADISOPSG/19 should be held, tentatively, from 28 to 30 May 2014.

**Acknowledgements**

The group expressed special thanks to the members of the SADISOPSG Technological Developments Teams and the IATA Member of the group who had contributed towards the progress of a number of key issues.

The group also took the opportunity to express its appreciation to the SADIS Provider State, in particular Messrs. Tyson and Dingle, for their support during the past year. Their roles were considered to be essential in the management and operation of the highly successful SADIS Programme. Noting that Mr. Loy (*ex-officio* Member of the SADISOPSG on behalf of the European OPMET Data Management Group (DMG)) had recently relinquished his position as Chair of the EUR OPMET DMG, the group thanked Mr. Loy for his contribution to the SADISOPSG over the past several years and welcomed Mr. Simon as his successor.

The meeting closed at 1200 hours on 31 May 2013.

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1. <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/sadis/news/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. vis-à-vis the Internet accordingly to Doc 9855. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Provided by Annex 10 – *Aeronautical Telecommunications*, Volume III – *Communications Systems* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)