



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**NINTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC OPMET MANAGEMENT  
TASK FORCE (OPMET/M TF/9)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 21 – 23 March 2011

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**Agenda Item 2: Review**

**c) Inter-Regional exchange and new requirements for OPMET  
information**

**- Harmonization of OPMET data on SADIS and ISCS**

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SADIS AND ISCS/WIFS BULLETINS**

(Presented by the WAFS Provider State)

**SUMMARY**

This paper highlights the continuing harmonization efforts of the OPMET bulletin availability between SADIS and ISCS/WIFS data stream.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Over the past several years the World Area Forecast Centers (WAFC) have been engaged in harmonizing the OPMET data on SADIS/ISCS and now WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS). Input from organizations like IATA and several user States has helped that effort as well. For example the group should be aware at the WAFSOPSG/6 China has raised some concerns about the harmonization of the OPMET data. This paper will update the group on the latest efforts towards harmonization.

**2. DISCUSSION**

**2.1 Difference between SADIS and ISCS/WIFS OPMET data provision**

2.1.1 It should be noted that the WIFS data stream initially stood up late last year with no filtering. At that time any comparison would not be useful, since the WIFS data feed was changing weekly.

2.1.2 It is also important to remind the group that the required OPMET data is driven by SADIS User Guide (SUG) Annex 1, and the products supplied over SADIS/ISCS/WIFS are clearly listed in the SUG Annex 1 and Annex 4. SUG Annex 1 lists the TAFs and METARs as nominated by IATA. While other data may be on the data streams in support of other efforts like WMO, this subset of data (SUG Annex 1 & 4) is the requirement and the focus for the harmonization efforts. There are several aspects that fall from these facts:

- a) Neither centre contains the whole set of global OPMET data, because of different data feeds into the respective gateways.
- b) The ISCS satellite which is dual system for ICAO and WMO, provides far more data than that required to be compliant with WAFS to meet other, non WAFS, commitments. While this may be convenient for some users, this 'additional' data, does not imply that such data are part of the WAFS dataset.
- c) Both SADIS and WIFS/ISCS Providers are conscious of the needs to provide as near identical datasets as possible with respect to SUG Annex 1 & 4. And as per SADISOPSG Conclusion from 2009, 95% harmonisation is considered acceptable.
- d) The group will no doubt be aware that the SADIS Provider applies quality control procedures at the SADIS Gateway – as required by the SADISOPSG. Consequently a small proportion of bulletins are rejected due to errors in their compilation at source or corruption en route to the SADIS Gateway. The ISCS/WIFS at this time does not reject bulletins if the WMO ID is correct, but the data inside is not properly coded. This will also lead to differences.

It is important that when the provision of data from the SADIS and ISCS/WIFS providers is analyzed or compared, that those groups should first start with ICAO DOC 7910 and the SUG Annex 1 & 4 to ensure the information is listed.

2.1.3 The WAFCs welcome the reports from the user States since this feedback is crucial to the WAFS goal of 95% for OPMET data. And both Providers acknowledge that the datasets are not in perfect harmonisation, but it must be considered that out of many thousands of bulletins, being routed daily across many collecting centres around the world, that 100% harmonisation is not – realistically – possible.

## **2.2 Perceived differences between data made available on SADIS 2G and SADIS FTP**

2.2.1 Under normal situations SADIS 2G and SADIS FTP receive the same, quality controlled OPMET data. It is feasible under situations of technical problems with data delivery from the SADIS Gateway that non-quality controlled feed of OPMET can be sent to one or both SADIS 2G and SADIS FTP. This is a necessary contingency arrangement and ensures that data is always available from a source other than the SADIS Gateway in the event of problems.

2.2.2 It is suggested that where data feeds are considered suspect the user States take advantage of the help desks mentioned in the separate paper presented to this meeting in order that timely solutions can be found.

2.3 While the WAFS Provider States have some internal methods that are not the same in gathering the data, the end goal is for the data available to be as harmonized. As of February 2011 a one to one comparison of SADIS and ISCS OPMET data shows about 98% harmonization.

**3. APPROPRIATE USE OF DATA MADE AVAILABLE IA SADIS AND ISCS/WIFS**

3.1 The group will be aware that data made available via SADIS and ISCS/WIFS is for the purposes of flight planning. SIGMET reports that are otherwise considered time-critical for purposes of immediate notification to aircraft en route should be delivered by appropriate transmission infrastructure such as AFTN. If AFTN is not available, the actions must be taken to rectify the deficiencies. It is not appropriate to elevate SADIS/ISCS/WIFS data delivery to a time-critical delivery service due to other infrastructure being insufficient.

**4. SUMMARY**

4.1 This paper considers and welcomes feedback from the States concerning delivery of data from ISCS/WIFS. It is through this feedback process and using the help desks that we improve.

4.2 The WIFS provider state acknowledges the issues experienced initially in relation to the data stream as the site stood up last year, but this was part of the data management process and any comparisons to last year for WIFS versus SADIS would not be reliable.

4.3 Users need to understand precisely what the SADIS and ISCS/WIFS Providers are actually expected/required to deliver.

4.4 Both Providers will continue to work towards 100% harmonisation, but are currently in excess of the 95% harmonisation requirement as specified by SADISOPSG.

**5. CONCLUSION**

5.1 The WAFCs urge timely contact with the provider help desks for resolution to perceived problems or issues, and again welcome the feedback and comments from the users.

**6. ACTION BY THE WAFSOPSG**

6.1 The WAFSOPSG is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this working paper and formulate any actions by the meeting, if necessary.

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