



International Civil Aviation Organization

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 21 – 23 March 2011

Agenda Item 2: Review

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

- Harmonization of OPMET data on SADIS and ISCS

COMPATIBILITY OF WAFC PROVIDER STATES WITH QMS PRINCIPLES

(Presented by the United States)

SUMMARY

This paper discusses the efforts of the United States National Weather Service to develop a Quality Management System for WAFC Washington.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Beginning 15 November 2012, ICAO Annex 3, (Chapter 2, section 2.2.3), raises to a standard that a Contracting State ensure that the designated meteorological authority establish and implement a properly organized quality management system (QMS) for meteorological information. This paper discusses the plans for the United States and Washington World Area Forecast Center (WAFC).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 WAFC Washington is part of the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS is currently developing a QMS program for aviation weather products and information available now and in the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) era.

2.2 The overarching objective of the QMS is:

- 1) An ICAO-compliant QMS with a focus on verification.
- 2) A verification program as a subset of the QMS program that will produce a baseline and an on-going measurement of the quality of:

- a) U.S. government produced and other operationally approved aviation weather information that are currently available;
- b) U.S. government produced and other operationally approved aviation weather information available in the NextGen Four Dimensional (4-D) Weather Data Cube.

Verification program results are to be used to identify needed research, and to update performance requirements for new weather information.

2.3 WAFC Washington will have the QMS in operation by October 2012. Furthermore, as an enhancement to the QMS, WAFC Washington is working toward an ISO 9001:2008 process for the WAFS Significant Weather forecasts.

3. ACTION BY THE OPMET TF

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information in this paper.
