



International Civil Aviation Organization

**SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS/NAVIGATION/SURVEILLANCE AND
METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (CNS/MET SG/16) OF APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 – 27 July 2012

**Agenda Item 12: Implementation of the issuance of OPMET (TAF, METAR, SPECI)
Exchanges**

3) other OPMET implementation issues

SUMMARY OF AMOFSG/9 MEETING

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of the AMOFSG/9 meeting, held in Montréal, from 26 to 30 September 2011

This paper relates to –

Strategic Objectives

A: Safety - *Enhance global civil aviation safety*

C: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport - *Foster harmonized and economically viable development of international civil aviation that does not unduly harm the environment*

Global Plan Initiatives:

GPI-9 Situational awareness

GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

1. Introduction

1.1 The ninth meeting of the Aerodrome Meteorological Observation and Forecast Study Group (AMOFSG/9) was held at the Headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montréal, Canada, from 26 to 30 September 2011, and was attended by twenty four (24) participants from eleven (11) States, EUROCONTROL, International Federation of Air Line Pilots Association (IFALPA) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

2. Discussion

2.1 The meeting is reminded that the AMOFSG is concerned with, inter alia, the operational requirements for the provision of meteorological observations and forecasts at aerodromes including provisions for additional meteorological products to be provided to the ATS units to support the global ATM and, in particular, those related to (severe) weather phenomena that could cause significant changes in the ATC procedures.

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2.2 Highlights from AMOFSG/9 include the formation of the Meteorological Aeronautical Requirements and Information Exchange Project Team (MARIE-PT), which would be expected to take the work (of the MSTA with the ongoing involvement with the ATMRPP) forward towards the goal of developing concrete proposals and associated guidance material for presentation at the MET/AIM Divisional Meeting (Action Agreed 9/36 refers). This is discussed further in IP/9.

2.3 The group developed numerous proposals to modify Annex 3 (as part of draft Amendment 76) relating to: the requirements for meteorological information by operators; the naming and location of meteorological offices; reporting domain for cloud in local reports; reporting of gusts in local special reports and SPECI; averaging period for evaluating gusts in local reports; the assessment height for runway visual range (RVR); the SPECI criteria for RVR; the use of the terms runway visual range and RVR; the reporting of variations in RVR; the need for reporting recent weather in local reports and METAR/SPECI where local special reports and SPECI are issued; the criteria for moderate and heavy sandstorm/duststorm; the reporting of present weather by automatic observing systems; the inclusion of significant wave height in the supplementary information of METAR/SPECI; the removal of “ice crystals” as a present weather element; the formatting of cloud information in local reports and METAR/SPECI; the issuance of TAF less than one hour before its validity period commences; the optional issuance of take-off forecasts; and editorial issues concerned with referencing and footnotes.

2.4 The group also proposed to develop guidance material to support: the siting and operations of meteorological instruments at aerodromes; the use and benefits of an array of ceilometers at aerodromes; the calculation of crosswind and tailwind components; criteria used for obstacle induced wind disturbances; the reporting of marked discontinuities in RVR; the reporting of undetected cloud where thunderstorms are detected in the vicinity by automatic systems; the validity period of amended TAF; the representation of midnight in meteorological products; and the provision of winds aloft information.

2.5 Other issues the group discussed and will report back on include: Operating minima suggested in Doc 9365; volcanic ash reporting issues; user requirements for the reporting of vertical visibility and intermittent precipitation; the trial of trend forecasts in the Netherlands; and the assessment of the Annex 11 provisions relating to ATIS information.

2.6 The complete summary of discussions and follow-up table from the AMOFSG/9 meeting, as well as the associated AMOFSG documentation, is available at the AMOFSG website: <http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/amofsg/Pages/default.aspx>.

3. Action by the Meeting

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