



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 8: World Area Forecast

3) ISCS/WIFS & SADIS/SADIS Secure ftp

WIFS USERS GUIDE

(Presented by the United States of America – WIFS Provide State)

SUMMARY

This paper reports that an updated version of the WIFS Users Guide is now in effect.

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-19 Meteorological Systems

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The World Area Forecast System (WAFS) Internet File Service (WIFS) is the operational service provided by the WIFS Provider State to access all WAFS products and OPMET data as defined in ICAO Annex 3, and Annexes 1 and 4 of the SADIS Users Guide.

1.2 As of July 2012, an updated version of the WIFS Users Guide (v4.2) is now available on the WIFS Support web-site (<http://www.aviationweather.gov/wifs>). This Information Paper highlights the major changes in this update.

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2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Section 3 of the WIFS User Guide provides an overview to the set of WAFS products that are available on the WIFS servers. For each of the WAFS forecast products (GRIB1, GRIB2, BUFR and PNG), this document now provides guidance as to when the files from each production model will be made available on the WIFS servers ready for download by user states.

2.2 The WIFS User Guide identifies that effective 5 July 2012, the GRIB2 products are now available on WIFS before the GRIB1. This is in accordance with the Conclusion 6/10 of the WAGSOPSG/6 Report - Prioritization of GRIB2 data over GRIB1.

2.3 Both the WIFS and SADIS Provider States have updated all appropriate User Guides to now include a common policy and procedure to be used to determine from which service (SADIS or WIFS) a user within a particular State should arrange to obtain its data. For the WIFS User Guide, this information can be found in Section 4.3. (Note that a joint IP, titled “Obtaining Access to the Internet-Based Services of the SADIS and WIFS Providers” provides further details and is being presented at this meeting.)

2.4 Section 6 of the User Guide defines the folder structure used on the WIFS servers, on where data can be found for retrieval. The folders now separate the US-generated products from those generated by the UK for all products. It should be noted that for the BUFR and PNG files, that these files will be duplicated. i.e., all PNG files (from the US and UK) are currently located at the top PNG folder; however, the US PNG files can also be located in the PNG/KWBC folder and the UK PNGs file are also in the PNG/EGGR folder. This duplication will continue to allow all users time to modify their WAFS workstation software to use the UK and US-specific folders.

2.5 It should also be noted that WIFS users should periodically access the WIFS Advisories page for any interim updates to the WIFS Users Guide. Any updates that impact the way users access WIFS services will be posted on this WIFS support website page, before being incorporated into the WIFS Users Guide.

3. ACTION BY THIS MEETING

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