



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**

4) update on ROBEX Handbook and ICD

**ROBEX HANDBOOK AND ICD UPDATES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper provides an opportunity to review the ROBEX Handbook and ASIA/PAC OPMET Data Banks Interface Control Document (ICD) and summarizes the updates adopted by the Tenth Meeting of the OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF/10) in April 2012.

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-18 Aeronautical information

GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Twentieth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/20) adopted Conclusion 20/65 that called for the Regional Air Navigation Plan (Basic ANP and text to the FASID) to reference the ROBEX Handbook for the regional OPMET bulletin exchange (ROBEX) for the collection and dissemination of METAR, SPECI, air-reports (AIREP) and TAF. These tables within the ROBEX Handbook contain information regarding the designated ROBEX centres and their respective areas of responsibility.

1.2 The APANPIRG/20 Conclusion 20/66 called for the ANP and FASID text to reference the ASIA/PAC OPMET data banks ICD for the collection and dissemination of OPMET bulletins together with procedures to be used in communicating with the data banks to support the ROBEX scheme. Amendment proposals APAC 09/22 and 09/23 approved in the first quarter of 2010

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resulted in the removal of FASID Tables 4A, 4B and 4C and replaced by the ROBEX Handbook and ICD for referencing the exchange of OPMET data in the ASIA/PAC Region (MID Region bulletins included). Therefore, maintaining the ROBEX Handbook and ICD at least on an annual basis is necessary for the proper exchange of OPMET data and measuring the success of OPMET exchange in the Region by the Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

**2. Discussion**

2.1 The meeting is reminded that the OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF) is tasked to regularly update the regional guidance material related to OPMET exchange. The ROBEX Handbook and ICD were last updated in April 2011 and June 2011, respectively, following the OPMET/M TF/9 meeting in March 2011, and can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.bangkok.icao.int/edocs/index.html>. The recent OPMET/M TF/10 meeting in April 2012 proposed that the review and update of Regional guidance material be formally included in the Work Plan of the Task Force with annual updates of the ROBEX Handbook and ICD published in September (OPMET/M TF Work Plan Activity/Milestone 9 refers); enabling review of the proposed updates by the MET sub-group prior to publishing.

2.2 Updates to the ROBEX Handbook adopted by the OPMET/M TF/10 meeting for inclusion in the September 2012 update are detailed in the **Attachment 1** and include: revised SAEG31 bulletin and introduction of SAEG32 bulletin for METAR data (as advised by Egypt); revised SAMS38 bulletin, FTSR33 bulletin and listed non-AOP Aerodromes to remove the word RMAF from the location Labuan (as advised by Malaysia); revised SAID32 bulletin to replace WADA – MATARAM/Selaparang with WADL – MATARAM/Lombok (as advised by Indonesia); and revised ROBEX Focal Points (as advised by Japan and Australia). States were also requested to review the ROBEX Handbook (Table A and B) with regards the METAR/TAF availability at aerodromes where 24/7 service is not provided and to inform the ICAO Regional Office of necessary updates (OPMET/M TF/10 action agreed 10/8 refers). Additional updates to the ROBEX Handbook were provided directly by States and include the revision of SAIN31 and SAIN33 bulletins for METAR data due to VQPR – Paro/Intl METAR being issued at HH +20 and HH +50 (as advised by India).

2.3 Updates to the ICD adopted by the OPMET/M TF/10 meeting for inclusion in the September 2012 update are detailed in the **Attachment 2** and include revised contact information for RODB Tokyo, RODB Brisbane and RODB Singapore. States were also requested to further review the ICD and to inform the ICAO Regional Office of updates where required.

**3. Action by the Meeting**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) provide any further updates to the ROBEX Handbook and ICD, as requested in 2.2 and 2.3 above.

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Attachment 1

**ROBEX Handbook - list of updates (for 2012 amendment)**

Black text – change made in draft version

Red text – waiting on response

Purple text – need to consult meeting/States

**Table A (METAR)**

- Add the aerodrome ‘Cairo’, CCCC ‘HECA’, to the Bulletin No. SAEG31 and delete all other aerodromes from the bulletin (as advised by Egypt)
- Add the Bulletin No. SAEG32, ROBEX Centre ‘Cairo’, CCCC ‘HECA’ and include all Egyptian aerodromes that were deleted from SAEG31, above, and do not include Cairo (as advised by Egypt)
- Delete the word ‘RMAF’ from the aerodrome ‘Labuan’ in the Bulletin No. SAMS38, ROBEX Centre ‘Kuala Lumpur’, CCCC ‘WMKK’ (as advised by Malaysia)
- Replace the aerodrome ‘MATARAM/Selaparang’, CCCC ‘WADA’, with the aerodrome ‘MATARAM/Lombok’, CCCC ‘WADL’, in the Bulletin No. SAID32, ROBEX Centre ‘Jakarta’, CCCC ‘WIII’ (as advised by Indonesia)
- Add the aerodrome ‘Paro/Intl’, CCCC ‘VQPR’, to the Bulletin No. SAIN33, ROBEX Centre ‘Kolkata’, CCCC ‘VECC’ and delete the aerodrome ‘Paro/Intl’, CCCC ‘VQPR’, from the Bulletin No. SAIN31, ROBEX Centre ‘Mumbai’, CCCC ‘VABB’ (due to Paro/Intl METAR being issued at HH +20 and HH +50, as advised by India)
- States to review availability indicated for each location (e.g., where 24/7 service is not provided) and notify ICAO Bangkok Office of updates as necessary (OPMET/M TF action agreed 10/8)

**Table B (FT TAF)**

- States to review availability indicated for each location (e.g., where 24/7 service is not provided) and notify ICAO Bangkok Office of updates as necessary (OPMET/M TF action agreed 10/8)

**Table C (Additional Non-AOP Aerodromes)**

- Replace ‘MATARAM/Selaparang, WADA’ with ‘MATARAM/Lombok, WADL’ (as advised by Indonesia)

**Appendix I – ROBEX Focal Points**

- change Japan to:

Junichi Ishida (Mr)  
Administration Division, Forecast Department, Japan Meteorological Agency  
Senior Scientific Officer  
1-3-4 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8122  
Tel +81-3-3212-8341  
[j-ishida@met.kishou.go.jp](mailto:j-ishida@met.kishou.go.jp)

- change Australia to:

Ms. Sue O'Rourke  
Head of Aviation Meteorological Regulation  
Executive and International Affairs Branch  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
GPO Box 1289  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9669 4662  
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9669 4473  
[metregulation@bom.gov.au](mailto:metregulation@bom.gov.au)  
[s.o'rouke@bom.gov.au](mailto:s.o'rouke@bom.gov.au)

Aidan Cooley  
ATM Systems Specialist  
Operations Support Branch  
Airservices  
Locked Bag 747 Eagle Farm  
Brisbane QLD 4009  
Phone +61 7 38663762  
Fax +61 7 38663506  
[aidan.cooley@airservicesaustralia.com](mailto:aidan.cooley@airservicesaustralia.com)

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Attachment 2

**ASIA/PAC OPMET Data Banks ICD – list of updates (for 2012 amendment)**

Black text – change made in draft version

Red text – waiting on response

Purple text – need to consult meeting/States

**Appendix B (RODB Brisbane)**

- Change Contact Information to:

**Brisbane NOTAM Office**

Airservices  
Locked Bag 747 Eagle Farm  
Brisbane QLD 4009  
Tel: +61 (7) 38663648  
Fax: +61 (7) 38663553  
E-mail: [nof@airservicesaustralia.com](mailto:nof@airservicesaustralia.com)

**Appendix D (RODB Singapore)**

- Change Contact Information to:

**Ms. CHUA Guat Mui**

Supervisor, Main Meteorological Office  
Operational Chief Technical Officer  
Weather Services Department  
Meteorological Services Division Service Singapore  
National Environment Agency  
Singapore Changi Airport Post Office  
P.O. Box 8, Singapore 918141

Tel: +65 65422861  
Fax: +65 65425026  
e-mail: [chua\\_gaut\\_mui@nea.gov.sg](mailto:chua_gaut_mui@nea.gov.sg)

**Appendix E (RODB Tokyo)**

- Change Contact Information to:

**Mr. Kenji KOSUGE**

Scientific Officer  
Information and Telecommunication Division, Forecast Department  
Japan Meteorological Agency  
1-3-4 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 100-8122  
Tel: +81 (3) 3218 3825  
Fax: +81 (3) 3211 8404  
E-mail: [k-kosuge@met.kishou.go.jp](mailto:k-kosuge@met.kishou.go.jp)

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