



International Civil Aviation Organization

**THE TENTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC OPMET MANAGEMENT
TASK FORCE (OPMET/M TF/10)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 17 – 19 April 2012

Agenda Item 2: Review:

a) current status of OPMET exchange in the region

PLANNED CESSATION OF WAFS GRIB-1 UPPER AIR DATA IN NOVEMBER 2013

(Presented by USA WAFS Provider State)

SUMMARY

This paper reminds States that the WAFS Provider States plan to cease production and delivery of WAFS upper-air grid point forecasts in GRIB-1 format in November 2013. At that time, WAFS upper-air grid point forecasts will only be available in GRIB-2 format, thus States should ensure that their flight planning and data retrieval systems have the proper decoder software to process the GRIB-2 data.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper reminds States that the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) Provider States plan to cease production and delivery of WAFS upper-air grid point forecasts (e.g., wind and temperature) in GRIB-1 format, with effect of Amendment 76 to Annex 3 in November 2013. At that time, WAFS upper-air grid point forecasts will only be available in GRIB-2 format. States should ensure that their flight planning and data retrieval systems have the proper decoder software to process the GRIB-2 data.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The WAFS Provider States, with effect of Amendment 75 to ICAO Annex 3 in November 2010, began the operational transmission of upper-air grid point forecasts (e.g., wind and temperature data) in GRIB-2 format. At that time, the production and dissemination of upper-air grid point forecasts in GRIB-1 format were retained so that States would have sufficient time to transition to the GRIB-2. The GRIB-2 data sets were transmitted after the GRIB-1 data sets in order to minimize impact on user transition to GRIB-2. Beginning 05 July 2012, per WAFSOPSG/6 Conclusion 6/10, the WAFS Provider States will make the WAFS GRIB-2 datasets available before the GRIB-1 data sets.

2.2 Amendment 75 to Annex 3 increased the required resolution of the upper-air grid point forecasts, which are met by the GRIB-2 format. WAFS GRIB-1 upper-air grid point forecasts do not meet the requirements of Annex 3, Appendix 2, 1.2.2.

2.3 The WAFS Provider States plan to cease dissemination of WAFS upper-air grid point forecasts in November 2013. State and users of WAFS upper-air grid point forecasts will need GRIB-2 software decoders on their WAFS data systems (e.g., WAFS Workstations). States and users should contact their respective WAFS Workstation vendors to ensure their systems are able to receive and decode the WAFS GRIB-2 data sets for use in flight planning and documentation.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 State and users of WAFS upper-air grid point forecasts should verify that their WAFS data systems (e.g., WAFS Workstations) are able to receive and decode the WAFS GRIB-2 data sets, since WAFS GRIB-1 data sets will cease in November 2013.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

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