



International Civil Aviation Organization

**SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY
SUB-GROUP (MET SG/17) OF APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 13 – 16 May 2013

Agenda Item 4: World Area Forecast System

4.3) WIFS & SADIS/SADIS Secure ftp

REPORT ON WIFS PERFORMANCE

(Presented by United States)

SUMMARY

This information paper presents WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) operations and availability statistics covering a portion of the period from 2012 into 2013.

1. Introduction

1.1 The World Area Forecast System (WAFS) Internet File Service (WIFS) is the operational service provided by the World Area Forecast Centre (WAFC) Washington that provides access to all WAFS products and OPMET data as defined in ICAO Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*, and Annexes 1 and 4 of the SADIS Users Guide (SUG).

1.2 WIFS became operational in May 2010 and became the only means for users to obtain WAFS products and OPMET data products from the WAFC Washington in July 2012 when the prior satellite-based service (ISCS-G2) was finally terminated.

1.3 As in the past with the provision of performance statistics for the International Satellite Communication System (ISCS), the WAFC Washington wishes to provide information on the performance of WIFS to members of the Asia/Pacific Region. Thus the purpose of this information paper is to advise the group that the WIFS Provider State is committed to provide timely information of all WAFS Products and OPMET data to all authorized users to ensure States can meet their obligations to support flight planning. This same information will be provided to the WAFS Operations Group (WAFSOPSG) as part of the WIFS Provider State obligation to demonstrate its on time performance.

2. Discussion

2.1 WIFS operations statistics for the period November 2012 through March 2013 are presented in Tables 1 through 5. For this period 100% of all WAFC Washington WAFS products in WMO GRIB Edition 1 and GRIB Edition 2 were on time, 99.8% of WAFC Washington Significant Weather (SIGWX) products in PNG format were on time, and 100% of WAFC Washington SIGWX products in BUFR format were on time. Most of the time the WAFC Washington products were delivered well before their required deadlines.

Table 1: WAFC Washington SIGWX BUFR Availability

Month	Total sets	Complete sets by +7:00	Complete sets by +7:30	Complete sets by +9:00	Earliest time for complete set	Latest time for complete set	Average time for complete set
Nov 2012	116	111 (95.7%)	116 (100%)	116 (100%)	+6:45	+7:21	+6:50
Dec 2012	124	121 (97.6%)	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+6:45	+7:27	+6:49
Jan 2012	124	116 (93.5%)	121 (97.6%)	124 (100%)	+6:45	+8:50	+6:52
Feb 2012	112	109 (97.3%)	111 (99.1%)	112 (100%)	+6:45	+8:15	+6:50
Mar 2012	124	121 (97.6%)	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+6:45	+7:05	+6:49
Total	600	578 (96.3%)	596 (99.3%)	600 (100%)	+6:45	+8:50	+6:50

Table 2: WAFC Washington SIGWX PNG Availability

Month	Total sets	Complete sets by +7:00	Complete sets by +7:30	Complete sets by +9:00	Earliest time for complete set	Latest time for complete set	Average time for complete set
Nov 2012	116	111 (95.7%)	116 (100%)	116 (100%)	+6:45	+7:21	+6:50
Dec 2012	124	122 (98.4%)	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+6:45	+7:27	+6:49
Jan 2012	124	116 (93.5%)	121 (97.6%)	123 (99.2%)	+6:45	+11:12	+6:53
Feb 2012	112	109 (97.3%)	111 (99.1%)	112 (100%)	+6:45	+8:15	+6:50
Mar 2012	124	121 (97.6%)	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+6:45	+7:05	+6:49
Total	600	579 (96.5%)	596 (99.3%)	599 (99.8%)	+6:45	+11:12	+6:50

Table 3: WAFC Washington GRIB2 Availability

Month	Total sets	Complete sets by +4:30	Complete sets by +6:00	Earliest time for complete set	Latest time for complete set	Average time for complete set
Nov 2012	116	116 (100%)	116 (100%)	+3:55	+4:05	+4:00
Dec 2012	124	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+3:55	+4:05	+3:59
Jan 2012	124	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+3:55	+4:05	+3:59
Feb 2012	112	111 (99.1%)	112 (100%)	+3:55	+5:00	+4:01
Mar 2012	124	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+3:55	+4:10	+4:01
Total	600	599 (99.8%)	600 (100%)	+3:55	+5:00	+4:00

Table 4: WAFC Washington GRIB2 CB, Icing, Turbulence Availability

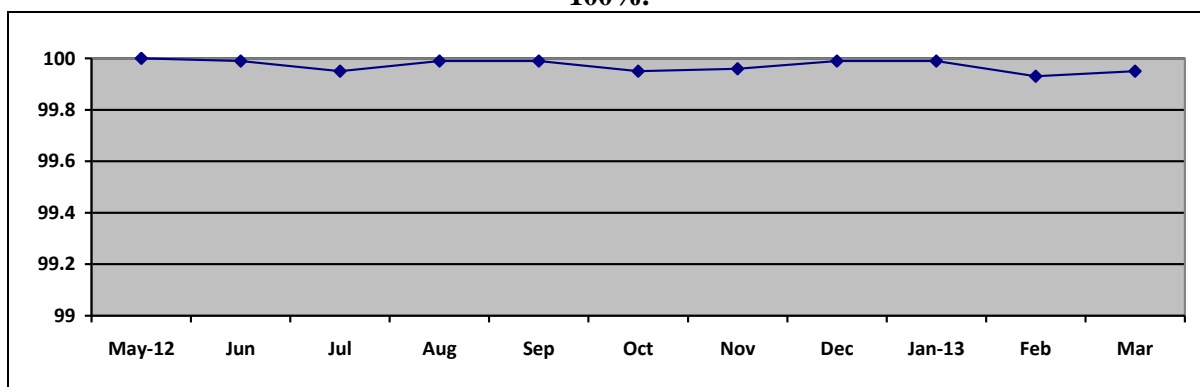
Month	Total sets	Complete sets by +5:30	Complete sets by +6:00	Earliest time for complete set	Latest time for complete set	Average time for complete set
Nov 2012	116	115 (99.1%)	116 (100%)	+5:00	+5:35	+5:05
Dec 2012	124	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+5:00	+5:15	+5:05
Jan 2012	124	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+5:00	+5:15	+5:02
Feb 2012	112	111 (99.1%)	112 (100%)	+5:00	+6:45	+5:01
Mar 2012	124	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+5:00	+5:20	+5:01
Total	600	598 (99.7%)	600 (100%)	+5:00	+6:45	+5:03

Table 5: WAFC Washington GRIB1 Availability

Month	Total sets	Complete sets by +4:30	Complete sets by +6:00	Earliest time for complete set	Latest time for complete set	Average time for complete set
Nov 2012	116	114 (98.3%)	116 (100%)	+4:10	+5:30	+4:15
Dec 2012	124	124 (100%)	124 (100%)	+4:10	+4:20	+4:15
Jan 2012	124	123 (99.2%)	124 (100%)	+4:10	+4:35	+4:15
Feb 2012	112	111 (99.1%)	112 (100%)	+4:10	+5:10	+4:15
Mar 2012	124	123 (99.2%)	124 (100%)	+4:10	+4:35	+4:15
Total	600	595 (99.2%)	600 (100%)	+4:10	+5:30	+4:15

2.2 WIFS availability for the period May 2012 through March 2013 is shown in Table 6. The lowest availability is 99.93, which means that 0.07% of the time that month, the system didn't respond within 10 seconds. WIFS uses an outside monitoring system that checks every minute for WIFS availability in multiple countries. This monitoring system has not reported any extended or recurring WIFS outages. However, to ensure that all problems are noticed and resolved, WIFS users are invited to contact the help desk to report any outages.

Table 6: WIFS availability shown as a percentage of time. Note the graph scale ranges from 99% to 100%.



2.3 As a reminder the WIFS Help Desk is staffed during the business hours of the United States Central Time Zone, which are Monday through Friday, from 13 UTC to 21 UTC. The help desk can be contacted via the webpage at <http://www.aviationweather.gov/wifs/contact/index> or by phone at +1 (877) 280-2811. Inquiries placed during business hours are usually acknowledged within one hour, and are resolved within 5 business days.

2.4 During the period January 2012 to March 2013 the Help Desk received 72 inquiries from ICAO CAR/SAM and APAC Regions. The WIFS Provider State is happy to report that the staff was able to respond to all inquires in a timely manner to meet the operational requirements provided by the United States meteorological authority and that there are no outstanding issues. Typically the inquiries received were related to: 1) establishment or maintenance of accounts; or 2) issues with data location or retrieval.

3. Action by the Meeting

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