



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 13 – 16 May 2013

---

**Agenda Item 8: OPMET (TAF, METAR, SPECI) Exchanges**

8.6) update on ROBEX Handbook and ICD

**REVIEW UPDATES TO THE ROBEX HANDBOOK AND ICD**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents updates to the ROBEX Handbook and ICD.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The ASIA/PAC Regional OPMET Bulletins Exchange (ROBEX) Handbook is the main guidance material providing detail on the procedures for OPMET exchange under the ROBEX scheme. The Handbook defines the responsibilities of the ROBEX centres and the procedures to be followed. It defines also the content and format of the ROBEX bulletins.

1.2 The ASIA/PAC OPMET Data Banks Interface Control Document (ICD) describes the standard interrogation procedures for access to the designated Regional OPMET Databanks (RODB) in the ASIA/PAC Region.

1.3 The ROBEX Handbook and ICD are published and maintained up-to-date by the ICAO Regional Office, Bangkok, and can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/edocs.aspx>.

**2. Discussion**

2.1 The ROBEX Handbook and ICD were last reviewed by the Eleventh Meeting of the ROBEX Working Group (ROBEX WG/11), held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11 to 13 March 2013. Minor updates to both documents were provided by the meeting, mainly concerning contact details in the Appendices to the documents, and the meeting agreed that these minor updates to the ROBEX Handbook and ICD should be published in the short term.

2.2 Noting the importance for the ROBEX Handbook tables to be kept up to date and harmonized with the FASID Tables MET, and the ICD procedures and content to be kept up to date to reflect changes concerning regional OPMET databanks, ROBEX WG/11 agreed that States should be urged to review their requirements and provide any required updates to the ROBEX Handbook and ICD in time for a major amendment in September 2013.

2.3 Also for consideration in the next major amendment of the ROBEX Handbook, ROBEX WG/11 suggested a number of areas where improvement to the ROBEX Handbook could be made:

- *Performance indices* – review the formula for ‘regularity’ (in Appendix H) and the inclusion in the formula of the term ‘No. of aerodromes’, which could be confusing, and consider the inclusion of specific instructions in the ROBEX Handbook for using the previous month’s data for comparison purposes in OPMET monitoring exercises;
- *IROG exchange* – review the arrangements specified in ROBEX IROG table (page 25), which could be streamlined to combine the ASI/AFI exchange (currently from Bangkok) and PAC/ASI exchange (currently from Brisbane) in one location, either Bangkok or Brisbane;
- *IROG exchange* – review the arrangements specified in ROBEX IROG table (page 25) and diagram (page 8), which require harmonization and could be updated to remove the requirement for S.PAC and NAM exchange (currently from Nadi), which may be redundant because all ASIA/PAC and NAM exchange is already provided by Tokyo; and
- *WAFS Internet-based services* – update relevant sections to account for the cessation of ISCS and Classic SADIS FTP Services and the commencement of WIFS and the Secure SADIS FTP Service.

2.4 ROBEX WG/11 considered the possible necessity to include guidance in relation to digital exchange of meteorological information in the next major amendment of the ROBEX Handbook, which should be made available for the applicability of Amendment 76 to Annex 3 in November 2013. Note that such guidance may necessitate the inclusion of a map in the ROBEX Handbook detailing the networks of the air traffic service (ATS) message handling system (AMHS).

2.5 Furthermore, ROBEX WG/11 noted that in order to improve the management of information contained in the ICD (and other related regional guidance) the meeting suggested that consolidation of Regional OPMET-related tables into a single set or repository should be considered and investigated, particularly in order to eliminate any unnecessary duplication in tables that could become misaligned as updates are applied.

### **3. Action by the Meeting**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

-----