



International Civil Aviation Organization

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 13 – 16 May 2013

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**Agenda Item 13:           Review of deficiencies in the MET field (APANPIRG Deficiency List)**

**REVIEW OF DEFICIENCIES IN THE MET FIELD**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents a review of the deficiencies in the meteorology (MET) field in the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) list of air navigation deficiencies.

**1.       Introduction**

1.1           The meeting is reminded that the definition of (an air navigation) deficiency (adopted by ICAO Council, 30 November 2001) is a situation where a facility, service or procedure does not comply with a regional air navigation plan approved by the Council, or with related ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), and which situation has a negative impact on the safety, regularity and/or efficiency of international civil aviation.

1.2           In accordance with its terms of reference, one of the main objectives of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) is to identify and address specific deficiencies in the air navigation field. To meet these objectives the Group shall:

- in line with the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), facilitate the conduct of any necessary systems performance monitoring, identify specific deficiencies in the air navigation field, especially in the context of safety, and propose corrective action; and
- facilitate the development and implementation of action plans by States to resolve identified deficiencies, where necessary.

1.3 The current APANPIRG list of air navigation deficiencies was developed in accordance with recommendations by the APANPIRG/17 Meeting, August 2006, in Conclusion 17/53, which called for a regional on-line database of air navigation deficiencies in the Asia/Pacific Region. In order to ensure transparency and facilitate resolution of deficiencies, the ICAO Regional Office was invited to establish a regional on-line database of air navigation deficiencies and provide secure access to States' Administrations and other users concerned.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The meeting will recall that the resolution of air navigation deficiencies has been given the highest priority by APANPIRG. Furthermore, the ICAO Regional Office distributes State Letters on an annual basis in order to obtain updates and to urge States to take immediate appropriate action to rectify the deficiencies.

2.2 The meeting is reminded that there are currently a total of 20 deficiencies in the MET field in the APANPIRG list of air navigation deficiencies; against 11 Asia/Pacific States. The list can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.bangkok.icao.int/> (username: apacdef; password: BKKapac). The 20 deficiencies listed in the MET field concern the following facilities, services or procedures:

- SIGMET information;
- WAFS forecasts for flight briefings;
- aerodrome meteorological observations; and
- volcanic ash/activity information.

2.3 The APANPIRG list of air navigation deficiencies in the MET field was last reviewed in the Eleventh Meeting of the Regional OPMET Bulletins Exchange Working Group (ROBEX WG/11), held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11 to 13 March 2013. ROBEX WG/11 was pleased to be updated on some progress in the corrective action taken to address MET deficiency AP-MET-03, concerning the provision of information on volcanic activity in Indonesia, and MET deficiency AP-MET-01, concerning the provision of aerodrome meteorological observations in the Solomon Islands. However, updated information concerning corrective action towards resolution of the other MET deficiencies in the Asia/Pacific Region was not available at the time. Furthermore, SIGMET monitoring performed on behalf of the ROBEX WG by Regional OPMET Data Bank (RODB) Bangkok in February 2012 failed to identify the issuance of any SIGMET by Lao PDR, indicating that the MET deficiency AP-MET-12 is still to be properly rectified. Similarly, the conjoint session of the ROBEX WG and the Meteorological Hazards Task Force, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 March 2013, was concerned to learn that no SIGMET was received from four States, namely Afghanistan, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, in the 2-month period of monitoring (August and September 2012). One of those States, Papua New Guinea, has an agreement to provide SIGMET on behalf of Solomon Islands and Nauru and all three States have MET deficiencies listed concerning the issuance of SIGMET (AP-MET-08, 22, 23 and 24). Note that the report from ROBEX WG/11 is available at the following web address: <http://www.bangkok.icao.int/> (follow the link to Meetings).

2.4 The meeting is also reminded that, although no MET deficiencies are currently listed against Bhutan, ROBEX WG/11 invited the ICAO Secretariat to verify the status of implementation of OPMET information in Bhutan in view of discussions in the ROBEX WG/11 meeting in which the representative from Bhutan advised that the service provider was unable to fulfill the requirements for the provision of OPMET for international air navigation.

2.5 In order for APANPIRG to meet its objectives to address specific deficiencies in the air navigation field, the meeting is reminded of the importance to provide updates to the ICAO Secretariat in relation to deficiencies listed in the MET field and progress on the relevant corrective action.

2.6 Finally, concerning the rectification of deficiencies and removal from the (open) list, the meeting may wish to recall the procedure from the APANPIRG Procedural Handbook, which requires that:

*States, on reporting that a deficiency has been rectified, will submit in writing an official report to the Regional Office providing full details of the action taken. On receipt of a report, the Regional Office will validate the action taken with the User who made the report. In the event that the User does not agree with the action taken, the deficiency will remain open until confirmation has been gained by all concerned. Once confirmation is made, APANPIRG will be informed, the status of the deficiency reviewed and removed from the open list of air navigation deficiencies.*

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

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) review the current list of air navigation deficiencies in the MET field on the ICAO APAC website provided above; and
- c) provide updates to deficiencies listed in the MET field and on progress concerning relevant corrective actions.

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