



International Civil Aviation Organization

**EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY
SUB-GROUP (MET SG/18) OF APANPIRG**

ICAO Regional Sub-Office, Beijing, China
18 – 21 August 2014

Agenda Item 8: Regional guidance material

REVIEW UPDATES TO ROBEX HANDBOOK

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper reviews the updates required to the Asia/Pacific ROBEX Handbook.

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 ROBEX Handbook is published and kept up-to-date by the ICAO Office, Bangkok in coordination with ICAO Office, Cairo. The ROBEX Handbook can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/edocs.aspx>.

2. Discussion

2.1 The ROBEX Handbook was last reviewed by ROBEX WG/12, which monitored progress on updates proposed by previous meetings of the ROBEX WG and the MET SG. To this end, the meeting is reminded that a number of suggested updates still need to be progressed and developed before inclusion in the ROBEX Handbook. These include updates to the definitions and guidance for:

- performance indices for OPMET monitoring;
- IROG exchange;
- TAF exchange (with respect to the filing time for TAF in accordance with Amendment 76 to Annex 3, which requires that TAF shall be issued not earlier than 1 hour prior to the beginning of its validity period); and
- digital exchange of meteorological information.

2.2 Proposed updates also include necessary realignment of ROBEX Handbook Table A, Table B and Table C with current requirements for OPMET at a number of locations, including in Viet Nam. The meeting will note that the MID region's Regional OPMET Coordination group will meet at the end of August 2014 and is also envisaged to provide suggested updates with respect to MID region OPMET dissemination.

2.3 Potential issues associated with the calculation and application of performance indices for OPMET should be reviewed and addressed in the ROBEX Handbook, including:

- the assumption that all METAR are issued half-hourly rather than hourly;
- performance indices may not necessarily monitor the timeliness of OPMET; and
- confirmation on whether or not the RODBs apply the performance indices in a consistent manner.

2.4 In view of the discussions above, ROBEX WG/12 tasked an ad-hoc group comprising RODB experts to progress the required ROBEX Handbook updates (Agreed action 12/4 refers).

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.
