International Civil Aviation Organization

THE TWELFTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC ROBEX WORKING GROUP (ROBEX WG/12) and FOURTH MEETING OF METEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS TASK FORCE (MET/H TF/4)

ICAO Regional Sub-Office, Beijing, China

19 March 2014

Agenda Item (conjoint session) 2:   **SIGMET and advisory information**

a) SIGMET tests

AUSTRALIA'S REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM 2012 SIGMET TESTS

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY
This paper presents an update on the Australian deficiencies identified during the 2012 SIGMET tests.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   At the 11th Meeting of the ROBEX WG Singapore and Japan presented results of the 2012 WS, WV and WC SIGMET tests. Included in these results were a number of deficiencies in some Australian SIGMETs. The deficiencies included:

    a.   missing message terminator "=";
    b.   incorrect sequence numbers;
    c.   Cairns MWO did not participate;
    d.   SIGMETs were not sent to all required recipients.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1   In May 2013, Australia changed its SIGMET format to comply with Amendment 75 of ICAO Annex 3. The change in format, and the updates to systems, addressed several of the deficiencies identified during the 2012 SIGMET tests.

2.2   In making the aforementioned changes, SIGMET sequence numbers changed from a length of 4 characters (e.g. PH01) to 3 characters (e.g. A01). This change enables forecasters to more easily send test SIGMETs with the Sequence Number "Z99".

2.3   Systems were also updated to automatically append the message terminator "=", rather than expecting forecasters to insert this character.

2.4   At ROBEX WG/11, Australia explained that Cairns was no longer an MWO and this is why they did not participate in the SIGMET trial. To formalise this change, Australia has submitted a paper to ROBEX WG/12 requesting that Cairns be removed as a MWO from FASID Table MET 1B.

2.5   A review of message distribution within Australia has identified that Airservices systems don't support the automatic routing of SIGMETs with a sequence number of Z99 and manual redirection is required. It is believed that the manual redirection of these messages, during the SIGMET test, is the likely cause for some messages not reaching all intended destinations. Normally SIGMET messages would be automatically distributed to the following addresses:

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AYPMYMYX, AYPMZGZX, AYPMZPZX, EDDFDLHM, FIMPYMYX, KDENXLDW,
KWBCYMYX, NFFNYMYX, NFZZRFXX, NWCCYMYX, NZAAANZO, NZKLYMYX,
NZZZADXX, NZZZAPXX, PHNLYMYX, RJTDYPYX, RPLLYMYX, RPLLYPYX,
VABBYMYX, VCBIYMYX, VCCCYMYX, VHZZYPYX, VTBBYPYX, WAAAYMYF,
WAAAYMYX, WABBYMYX, WADDYMYF, WADDYMYX, WIHHYMYX, WIIIYMYX,
WMKBYMYX, WMKKYMYX, WSATYMYX, WSZZYMYW, WSZZYPYM.
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2.6   Support for automatic distribution of Test SIGMETs (Sequence Number Z99) remains an outstanding action and will be corrected at a date to be determined.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

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

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