

International Civil Aviation Organization



**THE TWELFTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC ROBEX
WORKING GROUP (ROBEX WG/12) and
FOURTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC 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
c) Review SIGMET Guide

REVIEW OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL SIGMET GUIDE

(Presented by Hong Kong, China)

SUMMARY

This paper presents comments on the draft Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide (5th Edition) based on Regional SIGMET Guide template proposed by the Secretary in WP/C1.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A draft Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide (5th Edition) based on Regional SIGMET Guide template is proposed by the Secretary in ROBEX WG/12 / MET/H TF/4 – WP/C1. Hong Kong, China welcomed the adoption of a Regional SIGMET Guide template but would like to propose a few changes to the draft text and SIGMET test procedure. Further clarification is also sought on interpretation of SIGMET template as contained in ICAO Annex 3 (18th edition).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The suggested changes are fairly self-explanatory and are given in the attachment to this paper.

2.2 Further to the above, it is also suggested the series of SIGMET sequence number with first letter “T” and/or “Z” be reserved for SIGMET test so that there is no need to decode the content of the message to see if it is associated with SIGMET test or not.

2.3 Apart from above suggestion, while reviewing the draft SIGMET Guide together with ICAO Annex 3 (18th edition), it is noted that note (21) to Appendix 6, Table A6-1 of Annex 3 enables the repeating of a number of elements for the same phenomenon covering more than one area within the FIR, but this does not include the element “phenomenon” and “Observed and forecast phenomenon”. Section 6 (Tropical Cyclone SIGMET Only) of Appendix B to the draft SIGMET

Guide provides an example of one SIGMET with two tropical cyclones and the elements “phenomenon” and “Observed and forecast phenomenon” are repeated. It is not clear whether the example complies with Annex 3. Moreover, further clarification is sought on interpretation of note (21) of Appendix 6, Table A6-1 of Annex 3, in particular whether it enables the repeating of (i) two CB clouds associated with two TCs; (ii) two CB clouds associated with one TC; or (iii) both (i) and (ii).

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss the suggestions and points raised in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3.

APPENDIX

Proposed Changes to draft Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide (5th Edition)

- 1) Add “which may affect safety of aircraft operations” after “hazardous weather phenomena” in para. 1.1.1 and 2.1.1 to align with the definition given in ICAO Annex 3 and the priority indicator “FF” used in disseminating SIGMET as a flight safety message;
- 2) For illustration of best practice examples, the optional time group “AT GGggZ” be included as far as possible in all the examples of the draft when “FCST” is used for element “Observed and forecast phenomenon”;
- 3) Add an example describing a zone of volcanic ash cloud defined by FLnnn/nnn [APRX nnnKM BY nnnKM] for completeness sake;
- 4) Move the background information of the jargons (WS SIGMET, WC SIGMET and WV SIGMET) given in Appendix C (SIGMET Test Procedures) to Section 3.5.1 (regarding WMO header) of the main text;
- 5) Reinstate the explanation of the usage of optional group [BBB] in Section 3.5.1 which has been deleted in the latest draft;
- 6) Replace the example given on page B-13 to illustrate the use of “ENTIRE FIR” by one for volcanic ash cloud instead of severe turbulence as the use of “ENTIRE FIR/CTA” is restricted to volcanic ash only; and
- 7) Reinstate the table of the WMO headings for SIGMET bulletins used by Asia/Pacific MWOs as given in Appendix H to the current Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide (4th Edition, Amendment No. 10 dated 14-11-2013) and the table of WMO headings for TC and VA advisory bulletins is given in Appendix I as these tables in the current SIGMET Guide are the only document consolidating all the relevant WMO headings in the Region and this information is not available in other documents for the Region such as Asia and Pacific Regions Air Navigation Plan and ROBEX Handbook.
