

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
- e) Other SIGMET/advisory related business

**INCLUSION OF LOCATIONS WITHIN SIGMETS**

(Presented by Australia)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents a plan by Australia to provide two versions of SIGMET, one for domestic users and the other for international dissemination. This will allow Australia to meet domestic user needs and ICAO compliance.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 On the 14 November 2013, Amendment 76 of ICAO Annex 3 became effective. This amendment included the requirement that only geographical coordinates be used in a SIGMET to describe the location of a phenomenon. Australian SIGMETs currently include Planning Chart of Australia (PCA) locations and/or geographical coordinates for describing the location of phenomena.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 Currently, Australia has registered a difference to Annex 3 with respect to the use of PCA locations in the location field of SIGMETs. Below are two examples of Australian SIGMETs, one with coordinates only and the second with a mix of coordinates and PCA locations.

YBBB SIGMET A01 VALID 040227/040627 YMMC-  
YBBB BRISBANE FIR SEV TURB FCST WI S5000 E15700 - S4600 E15500 - S4400 E15500 - S5000  
E15900 FL200/300 MOV E 30KT NC

YMMM SIGMET P01 VALID 032330/040200 YPRM -  
YMMM MELBOURNE FIR SEV TURB FCST WI CAJE - YMLF - BURR - S2930  
E13930 - S3030 E13800 - S3530 E13800 SFC/5000FT STNR WKN

2.2 Whilst the use of PCA locations may not be causing any significant issues domestically, we are aware of some issues internationally. It is anticipated that the use of PCA locations in SIGMETs will pose more significant issues in the future, particularly as industry moves towards machine-to-machine ingestion of OPMET information and the full implementation of XML format by 2019.

2.3 Discussions with SIGMET users in Australia have shown a significant number of them have a strong desire for the retention of locations within SIGMETs. However, Australia is also aware of its obligations to ICAO and the benefits of being ICAO-compliant for international users.

2.4 Australia is therefore considering the creation of two versions of SIGMET messages, one for domestic users (which may include PCA locations) and one for international distribution (with only geographical coordinates). It is proposed that the information (e.g. Sequence Number) contained within the SIGMET will be identical except for the description of the location. In addition the domestic bulletin will have a remark line with additional information for domestic users

2.5 Below are examples of such a SIGMET, where the first example includes PCA locations and the second uses only geographical coordinates.

Domestic:

```
YMMM SIGMET P01 VALID 032330/040200 YPRM -  
YMMM MELBOURNE FIR SEV TURB FCST WI CAJE - YMLF - BURR - S2930  
E13930 - S3030 E13800 - S3530 E13800 SFC/5000FT STNR WKN  
RMK: ME NEW=
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International:

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YMMM SIGMET P01 VALID 032330/040200 YPRM -  
YMMM MELBOURNE FIR SEV TURB FCST WI S3540 E13810 – S3500 E13840  
– S3340 E13850 - S2930 E13930 - S3030 E13800 - S3530 E13800 SFC/5000FT  
STNR WKN
```

2.6 Australia is currently investigating whether a new set of bulletins may need to be created for domestic use; or alternatively the bulletin address will be common for both types with the content varying depending on the user. Either way, supporting user documentation (such as AIP) will be required.

### 3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper; and
- b) Provide comments and concerns to Tim Hailes about the proposed plan to implement two (2) SIGMET versions in Australia, one for domestic use and the other for international distribution.

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