



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 7: Research, development and implementation issues in the MET field

7.5 Data exchange

OVERVIEW OF THE WAFS INTERNET FILE SERVICE OPMET DATA

(WIFS Provider State)

SUMMARY

This paper briefly covers the results of the latest WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) OPMET evaluation of METAR/TAF and the addition of over 200 non-AOP aerodromes in the United States (U.S.) to the current Annex 1 of the SADIS User Guide (SUG).

1. Introduction

1.1 The Washington OPMET data bank is the gateway that provides METAR/SPECI, TAF and SIGMET reports to the WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS). The WIFS Provider State¹ works with the SADIS Provider State² to ensure data provided matches Annex 1 of the SADIS User Guide (SUG).

1.2 The WIFS Provider State also received a request from IATA to add additional (200) non-aerodrome operational planning (non-AOP) aerodromes in the United States (U.S.) to Annex 1 of the SUG. This request was reviewed and accepted by the U.S.

2. Discussion

2.1 As part of the on-going quality management system (QMS) process, the WIFS Provider State compares available OPMET data several times a year to Annex 1 of the SUG. Over the course of 2013, WAFS Washington in coordination with the Washington OPMET data bank identified the following data availability:

- METAR Availability: 98 per cent
- TAF Availability: 98.5 per cent

¹ The U.S. is the WIFS Provider State

² The United Kingdom is the SADIS Provider State

2.2 States that notice their METAR/SPECI and TAF not on the distribution from WIFS are encouraged to contact the WIFS Provider State so that corrective action can be initiated to determine why the reports are not being routed to Washington OPMET databank for processing by WIFS. For any deficiencies (missing METAR/SPECI and/or TAF reports on WIFS), contact should be made with WAFC Washington as follows:

- To contact WIFS technical support:
 - E-mail: wifs.admin@noaa.gov
 - Phone: +1(816) 584-7200 or +1(877) 280-2811

2.3 During the sixteenth meeting of the CNS/MET Sub-Group (CNS/MET SG/16) of the APANPIRG, held in 2012, IATA requested under Draft Conclusion 16/30 (Improvement of OPMET Data Availability) the improved availability of OPMET data for non-AOP aerodromes in light of their increasing use by international operators. Accordingly, the U.S. notes the following:

- The current list of non-AOP aerodromes (Annex 1 of the SUG) reflects approximately 16 US TAF locations where no TAFs are produced, and the U.S. Met Authority (FAA) has no requirement for TAFs. These sites will be removed from the Annex 1 to the SUG.
- The current U.S. aerodromes listed in Annex 1 of the SUG has 418 AOP and non-AOP aerodromes. This list does not reflect all the available non-AOP aerodromes in the U.S. The U.S. MET Authority has agreed to add the non-AOP aerodromes, providing over 200 TAF/METAR sites to the current Annex 1 of the SUG.

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.
