



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**The Second Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group  
(VOLCEX/SG/2)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 14-16 September 2015

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**Agenda Item 2: Review of VOLPHIN15/01**

**DISTRIBUTION OF METEOROLOGICAL MESSAGES RELATING  
VOLCANIC ASH EVENTS**

(Presented by Japan)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents the necessity to review and verify the routing of messages relating volcanic ash events through volcanic ash exercises.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The First Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group (APAC VOLCEX/SG/1) was held in Manila, Philippines, from 27 to 29 May 2015. The meeting noted that one of the objectives of the volcanic ash exercise/s, in accordance with the APAC VOLCEX/SG Terms of Reference (TOR), is to verify existing information, AIS and MET message routing via AFTN addresses, relevant e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and internet addresses (URLs).

1.2 The First Asia/Pacific Volcanic Ash Exercise (VOLPHIN15/01) was conducted on 11 August 2015 with a scenario in which an eruption of Taal Volcano on the island of Luzon, Philippines, emits a volcanic ash cloud that spreads northwards and contaminates the Manila FIR.

**2. DISCUSSION**

Volcanic Ash Advisories

2.1 At the conjoint session of MET/H TF/5 and ROBEX WG/13, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 18 March 2015, Australia and Japan provided the latest lists of AFTN addresses as well as States (Attachment 2A, 2B and 3 of ROBEX WG/13 - IP/C1) and the meeting adopted the following Decision:

**Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/2 – MWO and ACC location and AFTN address list(s) for VAAC back-up tests**

That, the list(s) of MWO and ACC locations and AFTN addresses used by VAACs in VAAC back-up tests be reviewed and updated, as necessary, to facilitate the participation of all intended operational units in future VAAC back-up tests, including those in the area of responsibility of VAAC Wellington.

2.2 In the VOLPHIN15/01, VAAC Tokyo issued exercise VAAs to MWOs and ACCs in accordance with the FASID Table MET 3B. However, although one of the objectives of the volcanic ash exercise was to verify the routing of messages, the VOLPHIN15/01 was conducted without confirmation whether relevant organizations should receive exercise VAAs from VAAC Tokyo.

2.3 In order to ensure the distribution of VAAs to all organizations concerned, it is important to review the routing of VAAs and confirm through the volcanic ash exercises. The following recommendations are proposed:

**Recommendation 2/x – Volcanic ash information guidance material**

Review and update as necessary APAC FASID Table MET 3B and ICAO Doc 9766, *Handbook on International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW)*, Part 2 to reflect current requirements for the distribution of advisory information on volcanic ash to MWO and ACC locations

**Recommendation 2/x – Volcanic ash exercise directive**

Review and update the volcanic ash exercise directive in order to ensure the transmission and reception of exercise messages (including VAAs) is confirmed by all relevant exercise participants.

Special Air-Reports

2.4 Through the VOLPHIN15/01, the VOLCEX/SG reconfirmed the regulation of Annex 3, Appendix 4, 3.1.2:

*3.1.2 The meteorological watch office shall transmit without delay special air-reports of pre-eruption volcanic activity, a volcanic eruption or volcanic ash cloud received to the associated VAACs.*

2.5 However, VAAC Tokyo was not able to receive special air-reports transmitted by MWO Manila since the air-reports were not forwarded to VAAC Tokyo by the message switching system due to lack of information about the WMO heading of special air-reports from MWO Manila.

2.6 Since there is no explicit list of AFTN address and WMO heading for special air-report relating volcanic ash events which can be referred by MWOs and VAACs at the moment, is the following recommendation is proposed:

**Recommendation 2/x – Volcanic ash information guidance material**

b) Develop a list of AFTN addresses and WMO headings for special air-reports for volcanic ash (in States concerned), which are required to be relayed from MWOs to VAACs

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate; and
- c) develop recommendations based on the proposals in paragraph 2.3 and 2.6.

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