



International Civil Aviation Organization

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL  
INFORMATION EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP  
(MET/IE WG/15)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 – 22 March 2017

**Agenda Item 6: Guidance material related to meteorological information exchange**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPMET DATA EXCHANGE  
USING IWXXM**

(Presented by Chair MET/IE WG)

**SUMMARY**

To facilitate the transition from TAC form to IWXXM the METP WG-MIE has developed a guidance document. This paper advises of the release of the document “Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET data exchange using IWXXM” by the METP.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The meeting will be aware of the transition from traditional alphanumeric code (TAC) form to the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema in relation to specified aeronautical meteorological messages distributed in accordance with ICAO Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*.

1.2 The meeting may also recall that a draft of the “*Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET data exchange using IWXXM*” (Guidelines Document) was presented at the fourteenth meeting of the Asia/Pacific Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/14).

1.3 More recently, the second meeting of the Meteorology Panel (METP), in Montréal, Canada in October 2016 reviewed an updated version of the Guidance Document. The METP endorsed the Guidance Document and recommended adoption of the guidance by ICAO Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) and their member States.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The Guidance Document has been developed to:

- Establish the purpose of the transiting to IWXXM;
- Describe current operations and capabilities, including the definition of data producers, National OPMET Centres, Regional OPMET Centres and Interregional OPMET Gateways;
- Describe the changes required;

- Propose the service concept, including specifying the Operating Principles and making recommendations;
- Elaborate on functional requirements in the form of a Framework; and,
- Express the requirements for successful transition, in three proposed phases.

2.2 The Guidance Document has been formulated based upon the expert knowledge of the members of the METP Working group on Meteorological Information Exchange (WG-MIE). The document is considered to be sufficiently mature to be used as the basis for transitioning from OPMET in TAC form to IWXXM.

2.3 It is intended that the document will remain a living document, and as such it will be required to kept consistent with current developments in IWXXM and its implementation. It is further proposed that the METP WG-MIE retain responsibility during the transition period for maintaining the document and released versions will be distributed through PIRGs to ICAO member States.

2.4 As the transition from OPMET in TAC form to IWXXM progresses to the next stage – i.e. raising a 'Recommendation' in Amendment 77 to ICAO Annex 3 (2016) to a standard in subsequent Amendment; there is a greater impetus for all stakeholders to commence will implementation.

2.5 It is proposed that latest copy of the Guidance Document be made available on APAC eDocuments website at:

<http://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/edocs.aspx>

### **3. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) encourage and support States with their implementation (including making them aware of the Guidance Document), and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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