



# **ASIA/PAC WAFS Transition Plan and Procedures**

5<sup>th</sup> Edition - July 2002

# ASIA/PAC WAFS Transition Plan and Procedures

5th Edition - July 2002

## Introduction

1. The Asia/Pacific WAFS Transition Plan and Procedures has been revised to take account of progress already made and in recognition of the impact of the final phase of WAFS.

## The Final Phase of WAFS

2. This plan is based on the understanding that the Final Phase of WAFS, as it will apply to the Asia/Pacific Regions involves:

- a. Production and dissemination by the WAFCs of global forecast winds, temperatures, tropopause height, tropopause temperature and humidity in GRIB format.
- b. The transfer of responsibility for the production for SWH from RAFCs to the two WAFCs, and hence the closing down of the RAFCs.
- c. The implementation of a communication system/s for the distribution of WAFS products in the Asia/Pacific Regions, to all the States that require the products in support of international air navigation. The final phase envisages this will be achieved via satellite broadcast (SADIS and ISCS/2). States may need to use an alternative distribution system.
- d. The production and distribution (via satellite broadcast) by the WAFCs, of Global, quality controlled SWH (FL 250 - 630) in BUFR format.
- e. The production and distribution (via satellite broadcast) by WAFC London of Global SWM in BUFR format (in raw form, i.e. not quality controlled except over limited geographical areas where required by PIRGS), and the production and distribution (via satellite broadcast) by WAFC Washington of quality controlled SWM in BUFR format over limited geographical areas where required by PIRGs.
- f. The capability of States to convert BUFR and GRIB messages to graphical products on an operational basis.

## SIGWX Charts

3. The table below shows the status of the SIGWX charts and responsible WAFCs.

Chart area & responsible WAFC	
G	London (SWH)
K	London (SWH)
D	London (SWH)
J	Washington (SWH)

E	London (SWH)
F	Washington (SWH)
I	Washington (SWH)
M	Washington (SWH)

4. There will be an ongoing requirement for NMSs to monitor the quality of WAFC products, at least until the Final Phase of WAFS.

5. Action required to be taken by States to adhere to the provision of Annex 3 to ensure the relevant advisories for tropical cyclones, volcanic ash, the accidental release of radio active material and SIGMETs are made available to the WAFCs in a timely manner.

6. The SIGWX charts produced by WAFC Washington are also available on the US NWS Aviation Weather Center Internet site at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/iscs>. All WAFC London products are available on a password controlled internet-based FTP site, together with appropriate GRIB and BUFR decoding facilities.

7. States are encouraged to send comments to the WAFCs about the quality and accuracy of SIGWX on a frequent and regular basis during the transition period to the Final Phase. Contact details for comments are:

#### **WAFC Washington**

- i. NWS/Aviation Weather Center  
Attention: Mr Ronald Olson  
7220 NW 101<sup>st</sup> Terrace  
Kansas City, Missouri  
USA 64153-2371
- ii. E-mail addressed to: [ronald.olson@noaa.gov](mailto:ronald.olson@noaa.gov)
- iii. Fax number: 1 816 880 0650

#### **WAFC London**

- i. The Met. Office  
Attention: Mr. Nigel Gait  
Civil Aviation Branch  
Sutton House  
London Road Bracknell  
Berkshire RG12 2SY, United Kingdom
- ii. E-mail addressed to: [nigel.gait@metoffice.com](mailto:nigel.gait@metoffice.com)
- iii. Fax number: +44 (1344) 854 156

#### **Distribution of WAFS Products**

8. Most States in the Asia/Pacific Regions are receiving wind, temperature and humidity forecasts in GRIB, and SIGWX in T4 facsimile format from the two WAFCs by VSAT, either

SADIS or ISCS/2. A range of WAFS products are available via the Internet and through bilateral arrangements with neighbouring national meteorological services.

9. In the Final Phase of WAFS, the two WAFCs will distribute by satellite broadcast Global, quality controlled SWH, and quality controlled SWM for limited geographical areas (Note: WAFC London will also distribute by satellite broadcast SWM in raw form, i.e. not quality controlled, outside the limited geographical areas). Once suitable decoding and visualization software has been acquired by States in the Asia/Pacific Regions, to provide them with the ability to operationally construct graphical SIGWX from the BUFR messages, and graphical products from the GRIB messages, the T4 facsimile format charts will be eliminated from the satellite broadcasts.

#### **Indicative Timetable for Achieving the Final Phase of WAFS**

10. The table given in Attachment 1 provides an indicative timetable for the implementation of the Final Phase of WAFS within the Asia/Pacific Regions.

#### **Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs)**

11. The VAACs will have an ongoing role of monitoring WAFS SIGWX charts that cover their areas of responsibility, and advising the appropriate WAFC to ensure the accurate inclusion of the volcanic ash symbol.

#### **Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCAC)**

12. The TCACs will have an ongoing role of monitoring WAFS SIGWX charts that cover their areas of responsibility, and advising the appropriate WAFC to ensure the accurate inclusion of the tropical cyclone symbol.

**ASIA/PAC WAFS Transition Plan and Procedures      Attachment 1**  
***Indicative Timetable for Achieving the Final Phase of WAFS***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Task/Stage of Implementation of WAFS</b>	<b>Anticipated Date</b>
1	WAFS London products on access controlled internet site	completed
2	The establishment of back-up distribution arrangements for WAFS products	completed
3	Training in the operational conversion of GRIB forecasts to Wind / Temp charts	late 2002 (SADIS) early 2004 (ISCS)
4	All states that receive GRIB products capable of converting GRIB forecasts to Wind / Temp charts	mid 2004
5	Removal of T4 Facsimile Wind / Temp charts from the satellite broadcast	late 2004
6	Training in the operational conversion of BUFR to SIGWX charts	late 2003 (SADIS) early 2004 (ISCS)
7	States having the ability to operate the decoding software to convert BUFR SIGWX messages into graphical format	mid 2004
8	The satellite distribution by the two WAFSCs of global SWH and of SWM for limited geographical areas <sup>(*)</sup> in BUFR format	2003 (SADIS) early 2004 (ISCS)
9	Removal of T4 Facsimile SIGWX products from the satellite broadcast	late 2004

(\*) WAFS London will also distribute by satellite broadcast SWM in raw form, i.e. not quality controlled, outside the limited geographical areas.