



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE

**Fourth Central Caribbean Working Group Meeting (C/CAR WG/4)**

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 9 to 13 February 2004

C/CAR WG/4-WP/09

22/01/04

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**Agenda Item: Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments**  
**3.5 Aeronautical Meteorology (MET)**

**CURRENT STATUS OF THE WAFS OPERATIONS AND THE ACTIVATION OF THE C/CAR  
MET TASK FORCE**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This working paper presents the request to the C/CAR Working Group to activate the C/CAR MET Task Force as indicated in Conclusion 6/9 of the past C/CAR DCA/6 Meeting. Updated information is presented on the requirements to the transition of the final phase of the world area forecast system (WAFS) of the CAR/SAM Regions.

**References:**

- Report of the Sixth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Central Caribbean (C/CAR DCA/6), Nassau, Bahamas, 2 to 4 July 2003;
- Third Central Caribbean Working Group Meeting, (C/CAR WG/3) Summary of Discussions, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 24 to 28 March 2003;
- The Eleventh Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/11), Manaus, Brazil, 3 to 7 December 2002;
- GREPECAS AERMETSG Report of the WAFS Task Force Special Meeting (WAFS/TF/SM), Santiago, Chile, 2 –3 April 2002; and
- GREPECAS Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Aeronautical Meteorology Subgroup (AERMETSG/6), Brasilia, Brazil, 23 to 27 June 2003.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Sixth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Central Caribbean (C/CAR DCA/6) held in Nassau, Bahamas, 2 to 4 July 2003, approved and updated the Terms of Reference and Work programme of the C/CAR Working Group (set out in Appendix I, Item 2 of C/CAR DCA/6 Report). The meeting noted the concerns transmitted by the C/CAR WG on the fact that at previous

meetings of this Working Group no MET nor SAR experts had participated from the C/CAR States/Territories.

1.2 Updated information that amend the schedule of the transition plan for the final phase of the WAFS in the CAR/SAM Regions is presented based on the review carried out during the Sixth Aeronautical Meteorology Subgroup (AERMETSG/6) Meeting held in Brasilia, Brazil, 23 to 27 June 2003.

## **2. Discussion**

### ***Implementation of the C/CAR MET Task Force***

2.1 The meeting will be aware that the at the C/CAR DCA/6, under Agenda Item 2, the meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and Work Programme of the C/CAR WG and later adopted Conclusion 6/9 which is transcribed below for ease of reference:

#### **CONCLUSION 6/9 - ATTENTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT-RELATED TASKS IN THE CENTRAL CARIBBEAN**

*That,*

- a) *the C/CAR Working Group activate the C/CAR MET Task Force to foster the development of MET tasks, using mainly electronic communication means amongst its members for development and coordination; and*
- b) *Civil Aviation Authorities of the C/CAR States/Territories, in coordination with their respective Meteorology authorities, make all efforts to support the work of the Task Force mentioned in item a) above.*

2.2 Considering the importance and the existence of several deficiencies in the MET systems and services of the Central Caribbean, the implementation of the abovementioned MET Task Force is strongly encouraged.

### ***Update of the transition plan to the final phase of the WAFS in the CAR/SAM Regions***

2.3 Aimed at ensuring the reception of WAFS forecasts in GRIB and BUFR code forms, which allow CAR/SAM States to access the global forecasts, the GREPECAS/11 formulated Conclusion 11/69 – Transition Plan for the Final phase of WAFS in the CAR/SAM Regions – including the dates in which the CAR/SAM States/Territories should take necessary action to achieve the WAFS final phase without problems in these two regions. At the AERMETSG/6 Meeting, the Subgroup updated the schedule of the abovementioned Transition Plan as included in the **Appendix**.

2.4 Furthermore, it may be noted that the ICAO NACC Office received a letter whereby, the United States Weather Service (NWS) announced that it issued a contract modification to MCI extending the X.25 broadcast over the International Satellite Communications Systems/World Area Forecast System (ISCS/WAFS). It was indicated by the United States, the ISCS Provider State, their intention to extend the ISCS/WAFS X.25 broadcast until March 31, 2004. This extension will allow the continuing upgrade to the ISCS/WAFS and provide additional time for the upgrades to the VSAT equipment and the replacement of workstations with those able to process Transfer Communication Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) data.

2.5 It is important to note that due to contractual problems, the TCP/IP Protocol is not yet operational and that according to the latest information provided by the ISCS Provider State, it is expected that the new service will be implemented by early February 2004. This short period with the overlapping of the X.25 Protocol and TCP/IP, seems to be only two months (i.e. February and March 2004). This X.25 Protocol will be discontinued as of 1 April 2004.

2.6 It was also informed by the ISCS Provider State that it is collaborating closely with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in this upgrade. ICAO NACC Office forwarded a copy of this announcement to the States/Territories of the CAR/SAM Regions.

### **3. Recommended Actions**

3.1 Based on the updated information and considerations with regard to the transition plan to the final phase of the WAFS in the Central Caribbean expressed in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.6 of this note, and on Conclusion 6/9 of the C/CAR DCA/6 Meeting, the Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information presented in this working paper;
- b) implement Conclusion 6/9 of the C/CAR DCA/6 Meeting; and
- c) implement the updated programme of the WAFS that is included in the Appendix.

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## APPENDIX

### TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE WAFS FINAL PHASE IN THE CAR/SAM REGIONS

Task	Description of task	Date
1	WAFC Washington to provide global gridded W/T data in GRIB code.	Completed
2	WAFC Washington to produce SWH charts.	Completed
3	ICAO NACC and SAM Regional MET officers survey states ability to produce wind/temperature charts from GRIB data for the purpose of assessing training needs.	Completed
4	ICAO to coordinate with States and users if there is validated regional requirement for SWM Charts for limited geographical area.	Completed
5	U.S. to provide BUFR decode software to the workstation manufactures.	Completed
6	Provide the technical functionality specifications for the purpose of acquiring new WAFS workstations.	Completed
7	Buenos Aires and Brasilia RAFC close.	Completed
8	States to initiate a process to procure new workstations, service agreements, and training to support these stations with a planned installation of workstations by November 2003.	Ongoing
9	Establishment of back-up distribution arrangements for WAFS products.	Completed
10	Provision of test BUFR coded SIGWX via File Transfer Protocol Server (FTP) to selected States for testing.	Completed
11	Satellite distribution of global SWH and SWM for limited geographical areas in BUFR format.	Ongoing
12	Training in the operational conversion of GRIB to wind and temperature charts and BUFR to significant weather charts at Regional seminars.	October 2004 – March 2005
13	States have the ability to operate the decoding and presentation software to convert GRIB forecasts into operational wind and temperature charts and BUFR SIGWX forecasts into operational significant weather charts.	March 2005
14	Removal of T4 wind and temperature and SIGWX products from satellite broadcast.	1 July 2005
WAFS Transition Completed		1 July 2005

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