

International Civil Aviation Organization

Fifteenth Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-group (ATM/AIS/SAR/SG/15)

Bangkok, 25-29 July 2005

Agenda Item 4:Consider problems and make specific recommendations concerning the
provision of ATM/AIS/SAR in the Asia/Pacific Region

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE IN NOTAM AND ASHTAM

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

This paper provides an advance copy of a working paper which will be presented to the Second Meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group in Lima, Peru 26-30 September 2005. The working paper recommends that ICAO align the standard on the use of latitude and longitude between the NOTAM/ASHTAM and the Volcanic Ash Advisory and SIGMET.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At the first meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG/1) in Bangkok, the meeting noted that NOTAMS and ASHTAMS were considered an essential means to communicate information to pilots and dispatchers on pre-eruption, eruption, and ash clouds and recommended that these messages be made available to the World Area Forecast Center for satellite broadcast.

2. **DISCUSSION**

2.1 In accordance with Annex 15, when a NOTAM is issued for volcanic ash or eruption, the location of the volcano or ash cloud that is the hazard is to be identified by using lat/long. Appendix 6 to Annex 15, paragraph 3.8, Qualifiers, provides a standard on how the information for each qualifier line is to be completed. Qualifier item 8) Coordinates, RADIUS provides an example of lat/long where the degrees and minutes precede the cardinal point and there is no space between each referenced point. The example provided is as follows: 4700N01140E043 with the last three digits, the distance in NM if required.

2.2 In accordance with Annex 3 Table A2-1 and A6-1 the format for the Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA) and the Volcanic Ash SIGMET (WV), respectively, show that the degree and minutes follow the cardinal point and have a space between each point contrary to the example provided in Annex 15 for the NOTAM. The templates provide an example as follows: N4230 E14048 – N4300 E14130, etc. Similarly, the special air reports use the same format structure for lat/long as in the VAA and WV.

2.3 To promote clear communication of information to pilots and dispatchers on preeruption, eruption and ash clouds, it is important to uniformly represent lat/long used for identifying the location of a hazard. 2.4 A working paper to be presented at the Second Meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group in Lima, Peru 26-30 September 2005 (Attachment 1), will recommend that the Secretary bring into alignment the format for the use of lat/long between Annex 3 and Annex 15 for the purposes of clearly communicating information to pilots and dispatchers.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided.

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INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS VOLCANO WATCH OPERATIONS GROUP (IAVWOPSG))

SECOND MEETING

Lima, Peru 26-30 September 2005

Agenda Item 4: Review of ICAO provisions related to IAVW

Latitude and Longitude in NOTAM and ASHTAM

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

This paper recommends that ICAO align the standard on the use of latitude and longitude between the NOTAM/ASHTAM and the Volcanic Ash Advisory and SIGMET.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the first meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG/1) in Bangkok, the meeting noted that NOTAMS and ASHTAMS are considered an essential means to communicate information to pilots and dispatchers on pre-eruption, eruption, and ash clouds and recommended that these messages be made available to the World Area Forecast Center for satellite broadcast

1.2 In this regard a proposal was drafted by the Secretary to amend Annex 15 with an applicable date of 2006.

2.0 Discussion

2.1 In accordance with Annex 15, when a NOTAM is issued for volcanic ash or eruption, the location of the volcano or ash cloud that is the hazard is to be identified by using lat/long. Appendix 6 to Annex 15, paragraph 3.8, Qualifiers, provides a standard on how the information for each qualifier line is to be completed. Qualifier item 8) Coordinates, RADIUS provides an example of lat/long where the degrees and minutes precede the cardinal point and there is no space between each referenced point. The example provided is as follows: 4700N01140E043 with the last three digits, the distance in NM if required.

2.2. In accordance with Annex 3 Table A2-1 and A6-1 the format for the Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA) and the Volcanic Ash SIGMET (WV), respectively, show that the degree and minutes follow the cardinal point and have a space between each point contrary to the example provided in Annex 15 for the NOTAM. The templates provide an example as follows: N4230 E14048 – N4300 E14130, etc. Similarly, the special air reports use the same format structure for lat/long as in the VAA and WV.

2.3 To promote clear communication of information to pilots and dispatchers on pre-eruption, eruption and ash clouds, it is important to uniformly represent lat/long used for identifying the location of a hazard.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the Secretary bring into alignment the format for the use of lat/long between Annex 3 and Annex 15 for the purposes of clearly communicating information to pilots and dispatchers.

4.0 Action

4.1 The meeting is invited to endorse the recommendation made in this paper.