



International Civil Aviation Organization

**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP  
SIXTEENTH MEETING (APIRG/16)  
(Kigali, Rwanda 19-23 November 2007)**

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**Agenda Item 4: AFI Regional Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Issues**

**4.4 Aeronautical Meteorology :**

**INTRODUCING THE 30 HOURS TAF IN THE AFI REGION**

(Presented by ASECNA)

**SUMMARY**

This paper is concerned with the ability of services to develop the TAF of 30 hours. It also suggests steps to be followed in its implementation in the AFI Region.

The Action required from APIRG 16 is at para No. 3

**REFERENCES**

Annex 3 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment to Appendix 3 concerning the convention on international civil aviation was enforced from 7th November 2007; however, the clauses dealing with the use of WAFS products, the extension of the period of validity of the airfield forecasts and changes relating to aeronautical meteorology codes, will only be enforced on 5th November 2008.

The MET/SG/8 meeting, which was held in Nairobi from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27th of July 2007, established a Task Force to carry out an assessment for the introduction of 30-hour TAF.

**2. BACKGROUND ANALYSIS**

**2.1 CONTEXT**

2.1.1 The current situation is that international flights of increasing duration are planned to enable availability of airfield forecasts that go beyond 24 hours.

**2.2 ANALYSIS**

2.2.1 Forecast centres such as those of South Africa or Kenya operating models have capabilities to develop aerodrome forecasts that can be valid beyond 30 hours. Elsewhere, various participants at the MET/SG/8 meeting expressed concerns about the ability of some of the centers to correctly develop 24 hours TAF; as well as, concerning those TAF of 30 hours.

2.2.2 During an internal meeting in the Department of Exploitation, and after a meeting of Weather Forecast Service Heads of ASECNA Representations, the relevance of this new need expressed by aeronautical users was upheld and the Agency will make all necessary arrangements to implement it in its centers. In any case, ASECNA has not yet prepared herself for the shift. The agency shares the concerns of the centers, which do not yet have adequate means (availability of basic meteorological information, working methods and adequate tools) to develop airfield forecasts of 30 hours validity and recommends the working out of a process between now and 5th November 2008, that will enforce the shift from the 24 hours to the 30 hours validity, as follows:

- a. Assessment of needed basic information, working methods and adequate tools needed for the change,
- b. Establishment of a quality control system for the TAF ;
- c. Establishment of a progressive implementation calendar for all the main airports in the AFI region.

**3. ACTION REQUIRED :**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a. take note of information given in this working paper; and
- b. amend the terms of reference and the mandate of the MET Sub-Group to include the process as mentioned above, on the introduction of 30 hours TAF in the AFI Region.

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