



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION
AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)
AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE FOURTH MEETING (AFI OPMET MTF/4)
(Pretoria, South Africa, 10 to 11 September 2012)

- Agenda Item 4: Review of regional guidance material on OPMET exchange**
- b) Review of the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX) Handbook**

PRETORIA RODB IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

(Presented by South Africa)

SUMMARY

The paper summarizes the proposed amendments to the AFI Regional SIGMET guide as reviewed by South Africa. In addition, draft conclusions are also proposed for the group's consideration. The action by the group is included in **paragraph 4**.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting may recall that one of the terms of reference (ToR) of the AFI OPMET Management Task Force (MTF) is to develop monitoring and management procedures related to AMBEX exchange, as well as to develop and review guidance material used in the AFI Region.

1.2 Further, the meeting may wish to note that any proposed amendments to these documents are presented to the AFI OPMET MTF for review and adoption, and thereafter presented as recommendations to the Meteorological Sub Group (METSG).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 AFI Regional SIGMET Guide

2.1.1 The list of Meteorological Watch Offices (MWOs) in the Africa and Indian (AFI) Ocean Region are contained in Appendix A to the AFI Regional SIGMET Guide. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headings used by AFI MWOs are contained in Appendix H of the AFI Regional SIGMET Guide. The meeting may wish to review these two documents to ensure that they are consistent particularly with regards to the names of MWOs and the corresponding Flight Information Region served.

2.1.2 In Appendix F, the procedures to be followed by MWO when referring to the geographical area affected by hazardous weather are presented. The meeting is invited to note that the word "Standard" is used as part of the heading of the Appendix. In ICAO terms, a standard is viewed as a requirement to which States must comply, unless a difference has been filled. Further, the meeting may wish to note that Table A6-1, of ICAO Annex 3, *Meteorological Service for International Air*

Navigation, contains several provisions to be applied to describe the area affected. These are not included in Appendix F of the latest AFI Regional SIGMET Guide.

2.1.3 In light of the foregoing, the concern is that MWOs in the AFI Region may view the provisions in Appendix F of the AFI Regional SIGMET Guide as a standard and as a consequent ignore other provisions in Annex 3 to describe the area affected by hazardous weather. South Africa is of the view that the provisions in the guidance material should be worded such that it makes no reference to the wording used in ICAO to describe a standard and or requirements.

Recommendation 4/xx: Updating of AFI Regional SIGMET Guide

That, the AFI Regional SIGMET Guide, Appendix A &H, be updated to reflect the correct MWO names and location indicators for South Africa as follows:

- a) **the MWO name as Johannesburg (FAJS) and;**
- b) **FIRs names and location indicators served as Cape Town FIR (FACA), Johannesburg FIR (FAJA) and Johannesburg Oceanic FIR (FAJO).**

Recommendation 4/xx: Updating of the heading in Appendix F

That, the heading in Appendix F of the AFI Regional SIGMET guide be revised with a view to replace the word “Standard” with the word “Procedures”

2.2 AFI AMBEX Handbook

2.2.1 The meeting is invited to note that Appendix G to the AMBEX Handbook details the list and contacts of AMBEX Focal Points for the AFI Region. South Africa views this list as very important as it will assist in efforts to ensure compliance to AMBEX Scheme and other OPMET exchange procedure requirements in the AFI Region. The list will also provide useful contacts for the two AFI Regional OPMET Data Banks (Dakar and Pretoria).

2.2.2 In reviewing this list, South Africa noted that the information about its AMBEX Focal point is not included in the list. Further, it can be noted that other States and or Organization have also not provided details of their AMBEX Focal points. South Africa would like to request the secretariat to invite States whose information about the AMBEX Focal points is not complete to provide the relevant details.

2.2.3 During the recent SADISOPSG/17 held in Cairo, Egypt from 29 to 31 May 2012, the meeting was informed about the pending cessation (1st July 2012) of the satellite segment of the Aeronautical Fixed System (AFS) the International Satellite Communication System (ISCS 1 and ISCS 2). The meeting will recall that ISCS 1 and ISCS 2 were used for the retrieval of World Area Forecast System (WAFS) products. In light of this, the SADISOPSG/17 formulated Decision 17/XX calling for the review of all SADIS documentation and subsequent replacement of all reference to ISCS by WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS). The meeting may wish to note that reference to ISCS in the AMBEX Handbook and other documentation still exists. In light of these developments, the meeting may agree that there is a need to review the AMBEX Handbook and other guidance material.

2.2.5 In the last AFI OPMET MTF/2, South Africa presented a working paper (WP18) through which the AFI MTF/2 meeting was informed about the implementation of the internet based “request reply” service by Pretoria RODB. Dakar RODB had also indicated that they too had

