



International Civil Aviation Organization

AFI SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

ICAO WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN OFFICE (WACAF), DAKAR

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON SIGMET

Dakar, Senegal, 6 – 8 December 2010

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INTRODUCTION

- **Requirements** for dissemination of SIGMET specified in **Annex 3, Appendix 6**
- Regional guidance on the preparation and dissemination of SIGMET is provided in *AFI Regional SIGMET Guide*.
- AFI SIGMET Test Procedures in **Appendix J to AFI REGIONAL SIGMET GUIDE - Amendment 1 – May 2010**
- **MET Div Meeting/2002 rec. 1/12 b)** calls for **PIRGs to conduct periodic tests on SIGMET**, especially those for volcanic ash.
- Concerns by the **users** for the timely reception of SIGMET information **has prompted the need to improve awareness** on the critical and important nature of SIGMETs.



PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF SIGMET TESTS

□ Purpose of the tests is to:

- check the awareness of the MWOs of the ICAO requirements for the issuance of SIGMET,
- check the adequacy of the existing telecommunication procedures for dissemination of the advisories and SIGMETs.
- Provide concerned States with advice aimed at improving their practices and procedures, based on the results of the tests.

□ Scope of the Test is:

- The issuance of test advisories by the VAACs and TCACs in the region,
- The dissemination to corresponding MWOs and the Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs).



PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF SIGMET TESTS

□ Scope of the Test is:

- The issuance of test SIGMET by MWOs on receipt of a test advisory from the VAAC or TCAC,
- The dissemination of test SIGMET according to the distribution list used for normal (non-test) SIGMETs
- To record the reception of the test SIGMETs and the corresponding time by the RODBs
- To distribute a summary table to the VAAC or TCAC with a copy to the AFI Regional Office and SIGMET Focal Points
- to prepare a consolidated summary report by the AFI RODBs and reported to the OPMET MTF, MET/SG and APIRG.

- The report will include recommendations for improvement of the SIGMET exchange and availability.



SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

□ Procedures for WC and WV SIGMET TEST

❖ Participating Units

- Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centre (TCAC) : La Reunion
- Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) : Toulouse
- Regional OPMET Data Bank (RODB) : Dakar and Pretoria
- Meteorological Watch Office (MWO)
 - Listed in FASID Table MET 3A and MET 3B of the AFI FASID, under the responsibility of Toulouse VAAC and La Reunion TCAC

❖ Test date and time

- Set by the ICAO/RO in consultation with RODBs, VAAC and TCAC
- Agreed date and time sent to MWOs and copied to SIGMET Focal Points



SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

□ Procedures for WC and WV SIGMET TEST

❖ Test messages

- TCA Test Message prepared by La Reunion TCAC
- VA Test Message prepared by Toulouse VAAC
- Format of VA in pages J-5 of App. J to AFI SIGMET Guide
- Format of TC in page J-8
- Upon receipt of Test VAA/TCA, MWOs prepare WV/WC Test SIGMET and send it to RODBs
- MWOs should issue WV or WC TEST SIGMET within the 10-minute period following the issuance of VA or TC test



SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

□ Procedures for WS SIGMET Tests

❖ Test messages

- WS SIGMET Test should be initiated by the WMO at the designated time.
- Information about the date and time is sent by ROs to all WMOs and copied to the Focal Points
- ICAO ROs provide the name, location and the occurrence of the phenomena to be described in the TESTSIGMET.

❖ Participating Units

- AFI WMOs
- AFI RODBs



SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

□ Common Procedures Applicable to All Types of SIGMET

❖ AFTN ADDRESSES

➤ RODBs

- Dakar: GOOYYZYZ
- Pretoria: FAPRYMYX

➤ AFI MWOs: SIGMET Guide Appendix H-1, *to be updated yearly*

❖ At least 2 SIGMET Tests should be conducted each year



SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

❑ Special Procedures to Avoid Overwriting of a Valid SIGMET

❖ It is vital to avoid overwriting of a valid SIGMET in an automated system. In order to prevent this it is suggested that:

- If at the time of the SIGMET test NO SIGMET is current for the FIR, the number of the test SIGMET should follow the normal numbering sequence;
- If a SIGMET is VALID at the time of the test then the TEST SIGMET should be issued and the valid SIGMET should be repeated immediately after the TEST SIGMET

❖ Example

WSCG31 FCBB 250100

FCCC SIGMET 1 VALID 250100/250500 FCBB-

FCCC BRAZZAVILLE FIR SEV TURB FCST WI=



SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

□ Special Procedures to Avoid Overwriting of a Valid SIGMET

Examples

A SIGMET test is scheduled for 0200 UTC on the 25th. The TEST SIGMET is issued with the next consecutive sequence number as follows:

**WSCG31 FCBB 250200
FCCC SIGMET 2 VALID 250200/250210 FCBB-
FCCC TEST SIGMET PLEASE DISREGARED =**

The original SIGMET is then retransmitted immediately after this with the next consecutive sequence number and the validity period is amended accordingly :

**WSCG31 FCBB 250200
FCCC SIGMET 3 VALID 250200/250500 FCBB-
FCCC BRAZZAVILLE FIR SEV TURB FCST WI ... =**

DISSEMINATION OF TEST SIGMETs AND ADVISORIES



☐ Coordination with the ATS units

- ❖ All TEST SIGMETs and TC/VA advisories should be **sent to both AFI RODBs**.
- ❖ SIGMET tests should be terminated **within 2 hours** of the test start time.
- ❖ **MWOs** should **inform** the associated **ATS units** of the forthcoming SIGMET tests by a suitable advanced notice.

DISSEMINATION OF TEST SIGMETS AND ADVISORIES



□ Processing of the test messages and results

❖ The RODBs should

- file all incoming TEST advisories and SIGMETs
- perform an analysis of the availability, timeliness of arrival and the correctness of the WMO bulletin headings.
- Prepare a SIGMET TEST Summary Table as shown on page J-10
- sent to the Rapporteur of the VA/TC Implementation TF, and
- Sent to the contact given below with a copy to the ICAO Dakar and Nairobi Regional Office.

❖ The Rapporteur and SIGMET Test contact should :

- prepare the final report of the test and present to the AFI Regional Offices.
- submitted a summary report to the next AFI OPMET MTF meeting.

DISSEMINATION OF TEST SIGMETS AND ADVISORIES



The current contact information for sending summary tables is as follows :

WS SIGMET summary table sent to :

Mr Dieme Saidou
Service Exploitation Météorologique ASECNA –
Sénégal
Tél 221 33 869 22 03
Fax 221 33 820 06 00
E-mail : saidoudieme@yahoo.fr

WV/WC SIGMET summary table sent to :

Mrs G.E Khambule
South African Weather Service
Tel 27113909326
Fax 27113209332
Email : gaborekwe.khambule@weathersa.co.za

**All Summary Tables and any enquires
about SIGMET tests sent to :**

ICAO Regional Office, Dakar
E-mail : icaowacaf@dakar.icao.int
Cc : aokossi@dakar.icao.int

And

ICAO Regional Office, Nairobi
Email : icao@icao.union.org
Cc: boitshoko.sekwati@icao.union.org



*Merci de votre Attention et bon
Séjour à Dakar*

*Thank you for your Attention
and Enjoy your Stay in
Dakar*