



**METEOROLOGY PANEL (METP)
WORKING GROUP ON METEOROLOGICAL OPERATIONS GROUPS
(WG-MOG) INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS VOLCANO WATCH (IAVW)**

EIGHTH MEETING

Wellington, New Zealand, 12 to 14 November 2018

**Agenda Item 4: MOG (IAVW) work plan and activities
4.1: Progress reports from each activity**

MODEL VAG AND MODEL SVA

(Presented by Greg Brock as the METP Member nominated by WMO)

SUMMARY

This information paper presents a brief overview of the progress made in response to WG-MOG/5 (IAVW) Action agreed 5/4 concerning the MODEL VAG and MODEL SVA used in Appendix 1 to ICAO Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* and corresponding outcomes of the METP/4.

Action by the METP WG-MOG is in paragraph 4.

1. DISCUSSION

1.1 At the fifth meeting of the ICAO Meteorology Panel Working Group on Meteorological Operations Groups (METP WG-MOG/5) International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) work stream, held 12 to 14 June 2017 in Tokyo, Japan, the meeting formulated Action Agreed 5/4 as follows:

Action Agreed 5/4 – Model VAG and Model SVA in Appendix 1 to Annex 3

That WMO be invited to:

- a) prepare, with the assistance of VAAC Wellington, by the 31 December 2017, revised MODEL VAG and MODEL SVA examples as per the specification shown at Appendix A to METP WG-MOG/5 (IAVW) – SN/6.; and

- b) upon the completion of a), submit a corresponding proposed amendment to Appendix 1 to Annex 3/WMO-No. 49, Technical Regulations, Volume II – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation for review by the next meeting of the METP WG-MOG IAVW in view of its potential inclusion as part of Amendment 79 (2020).

1.2 This information paper presents a brief overview of the progress made in response to Action agreed 5/4 and the corresponding outcomes of the METP/4 held in September 2018.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 METP WG-MOG/5 (IAVW) Action agreed 5/4 was a recognition by the working group that there was a need to overcome identified shortcomings in the existing MODEL VAG and MODEL SVA used in Appendix 1 to Annex 3, notably as they related to the map projections used, the depiction of polygons to describe the coverage of volcanic ash cloud(s), and cloud layers.

2.2 Since WMO is the custodian of (all) the model charts used in Appendix 1 to Annex 3, WMO was given the lead responsibility by WG-MOG to develop a maximum of two examples per MODEL VAG and MODEL SVA.

2.3 Recognizing that the next meeting of the WG-MOG (IAVW) [November 2018] was scheduled to take place only *after* the METP/4 meeting [September 2018], it was recommended by the Rapporteur of the WG-MOG that the follow-up to Action agreed 5/4 be completed through correspondence and subsequently reported directly to METP/4 in September 2018. In this way, any proposed amendment to Annex 3 could be introduced as part of Amendment 79 with applicability in November 2020 rather than potentially losing a further 2 years in the amendment process.

2.4 Accordingly, at the fourth meeting of the Meteorology Panel (METP/4) held 10 to 14 September 2018 in Montreal, Canada, the Panel considered WP/4103 ([available on the secure ICAO Portal here](#)) which contained a proposed amendment to Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* in respect of the model charts used in Appendix 1 to represent the location and extent of volcanic ash clouds. The proposals presented to METP/4 had been necessarily coordinated with members of WG-MOG (IAVW) in advance.

2.5 It is worthwhile to advise that the proposals submitted to METP/4 differed slightly from the specifications formulated for WG-MOG/5 (IAVW) in June 2017. For example, during the development of the new model charts it became evident that the preferred orientation for a MODEL VAG was landscape rather than portrait, consistent with the current practice of those VAACs that issue VAG. Notwithstanding and following coordination with VAAC representatives, the proposals submitted to METP/4 were considered to be the most reliable, up-to-date examples for appropriate inclusion into Appendix 1 to Annex 3 and were consistent with the 20th Edition of Annex 3 (July 2018).

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Having completed its consideration of WP/4103, the METP/4 agreed that a proposed amendment concerning MODEL VAG and MODEL SVA in Appendix 1 to Annex 3 should be included as part of Amendment 79 with intended applicability in November 2020. METP/4 formulated Recommendation 6/5 (provisional numbering) accordingly.

3.2 The proposal will now proceed to be considered by the ICAO Air Navigation Commission in early 2019. ICAO Contracting States and concerned international organizations are expected to be consulted on the proposed amendment in mid-2019 prior to its potential adoption by ICAO Council and applicability in 2020.

4. ACTION BY THE METP WG-MOG

4.1 The METP WG-MOG is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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