



**MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY PANEL (METP)
METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION AND SERVICE
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (WG-MISD)**

FIRST MEETING

Washington DC, United States, 16 to 19 November 2015

**Agenda Item 4: Matters Relating to WG-MISD Release of Radioactive Material Work Stream
4.2: Draft Guidance Material**

**THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL GUIDANCE ON THE ISSUANCE OF SIGMET FOR
RADIOACTIVE CLOUD**

(Presented by Sharon Lau Sum Yee)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the findings of the ad-hoc group of Asia/Pacific Meteorological Hazards Task Force on guidance on the issuance of SIGMET for radioactive cloud.

Action by the METP-WG/MISD Release of Radiation Information Work Stream is in paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The sixteenth edition to Annex 3, Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, introduced the Radioactive Cloud (RDOACT CLD) as a phenomenon for the SIGMET in November 2007. The first SIGMET for radioactive cloud was issued in March 2011, in response to the accidental release of a radioactive cloud from the Fukushima Nuclear power plant in Japan. The Fukushima plant was damaged by the great earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

1.2 While Annex 3 is amended to allow for the provision of SIGMET for radioactive cloud, it is also recognized that there would be a need to develop guidance on how to provide this information. Therefore, the Forth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Meteorological Hazards Task Force (MET/H TF/4) agreed to form an ad-hoc group comprising China (Rapporteur), Hong Kong-China and Japan to develop guidance for possible inclusion in the Regional SIGMET Guide on the issuance of SIGMET for radioactive cloud.

1.3 Meanwhile, ICAO Secretariat, after much coordination effort, had issued Memo/64 to IAVWOPSG and come up with a draft guidance which is very much similar to that proposed by the ad-hoc group.

1.4 The proposed regional guidance by the ad-hoc group was discussed at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Meteorology sub-group (MET SG/19) of the Asia/Pacific (APAC) Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG). The meeting considered that the findings of the ad hoc group designated by MET/H TF/4 (comprising China (Rapporteur), Hong Kong-China and Japan) be considered by the appropriate (global) group tasked with formulating global guidance and provisions for SIGMET on radioactive cloud, and to ensure that efforts continue on the development of some level of guidance for MWOs in the APAC Region, the meeting adopted the following Decision:

Decision 19/20 Regional guidance on SIGMET (radioactive cloud)

That,

a) MET SG members who are members of the METP, be invited to forward the draft guideline on the issuance of SIGMET for radioactive cloud to the METP at the earliest opportunity for further consideration; and

b) The ad hoc group be invited to continue work on Regional guidance material based on the work done so far.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Appendix A is the working paper presented at MET SG/19. In essence, the draft guidelines by the ad-hoc group is very much similar to that proposed by the Secretariat. For States where there is no national/local radioactive protection authority, the proposal from ad-hoc group is the same as that by the Secretariat, namely a protective area with horizontal radius of 30 km (16 nm) would be adopted. However, for States with national/local radioactive protection authority, the ad-hoc group considered that the SIGMET information should be consistent with the action taken by the national/local radioactive protection authority. The proposal by ad-hoc group has the benefit that it would respect the protective area as determined by the national/local radioactive protection authority, thus ensuring consistency in the warning message, otherwise it may cause significant confusion to the public.

3. ACTION BY THE METP-WG/MISD RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL WORK STREAM

3.1 The METP-WG/MISD Release of Radioactive Material Work Stream is invited to:

a) note the information contained in this paper, and

b) provide comment on the draft guideline by MET/H TF/4 and its appropriateness to serve as guideline for other regions.