International Civil Aviation Organization

METPWGMOG/7/SN/xx
11/04/18

Study Note

MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY PANEL (METP) WORKING GROUP MOG (WAFS)

SEVENTH MEETING

Offenbach, Germany, 11 to 13 April 2018

Agenda Item 4: SIGMET related documentation

AMENDMENT 79 to ANNEX3 UPDATE - SIGMET

(Presented by the WAFC London)

SUMMARY

This study note is to discuss whether the descriptor APRX should be removed from SIGMET documentation in Annex 3.

Action by the METP-WG/MOG is in paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At METP/2 WP6006 discussed the use of the 'APRX indicator' in SIGMET and AIRMET and formulated the following decision:

Decision 8.3 – That the term 'APRX' should be removed from the regional SIGMET Guide template and not be recommended for use.

1.2 APRX has been removed from the SIGMET guide but on reviewing the upcoming changes to Annex 3 that will result from Amendment 78 it is apparent that references to 'APRX' still exist in Table A6-1A.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The rationale for discontinuing the use of 'APRX' in SIGMET and AIRMETS from METP/2 WP6006 is presented in Appendix A.

2.2 The Group is invited to discuss whether to recommend the removal of 'APRX' in Annex 3 as part of Amendment 79.

2.3 Draft changes for Amendment 79 are presented in Appendix B.

2.4 Given the above information, the group is invited to formulate the following draft decision:

Recommendation 7/xx – removal of 'APRX' indicator in SIGMET and AIRMET.

That the removal of APRX in Table A6.1A of Annex 3, and as drafted in Appendix B is endorsed by the group and is proposed to METP/4.

3. ACTION BY THE METP-WG/MOG

3.1 The METP-WG/MOG is invited to:

a) note the information contained in this paper; and

b) Formulate the draft recommendation as contained in paragraph 2.4.

APPENDIX A
Text from METP/2 WP/6006

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 As noted above, the current convention for describing a 'corridor' affected by hazardous phenomenon is of the form (highlighted for reference):

APRX nnKM WID LINE BTN (nnNM WID LINE BTN) Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn] – Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn] [– Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn]] [– Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn]]

An example being:

APRX 50KM WID LINE BTN N64 W017 – N60 W010 – N57 E010

2.2 It is considered that the use of 'APRX' does not add any value, since paragraph 2.2.8 of Chapter 2 to Annex 3 states:

> 2.2.8 Owing to the variability of meteorological elements in space and time, to limitations of forecasting techniques and to limitations caused by the definitions of some of the elements, the specific value of any of the elements given in a forecast shall be understood by the recipient to be the most probable value which the element is likely to assume during the period of the forecast. Similarly, when the time of occurrence or change of an element is given in a forecast, this time shall be understood to be the most probable time.

2.3 Consequently, it is proposed that the descriptor 'WI' (also used to describe a polygon) can also be used in these instances. As such, the format would have the form (highlighted for reference):

WI nnKM WID LINE BTN (nnNM WID LINE BTN) Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn] – Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn] [– Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn]] [– Nnn[nn] *or* Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] *or* Ennn[nn]]

An example being:

WI 50KM WID LINE BTN N64 W017 – N60 W010 – N57 E010

And being interpreted in plain language as 'within a corridor 50 kilometre wide line centred on a line between 64 degrees north 17 degrees west, 60 degrees north 10 degrees west and 57 degrees north 10 degrees east'.

2.4 The existing use of 'WI' for polygons should not be compromised since the structure of the message for polygons is different.

2.5 Given the above discussion, the Panel is invited to formulate the following draft recommendation:

APPENDIX B

Insertions are shown in shaded text
Deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~

Table A6-1A. Template for SIGMET and AIRMET messages

Location (C)[20]	Location (referring to latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes))	or ~~APRX~~ WI nnKM WID LINE[21] BTN (or nnNM WID LINE[21] BTN) Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn] – Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn] [– Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn]] [– Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn]]	~~APRX~~ WI 50KM WID LINE BTN N64 W017 – N60 W010 – N57 E010
Forecast position (C) [20, 24, 25]	Forecast position of phenomenon at the end of the validity period of the SIGMET message	or ~~APRX~~ WI nnKM WID LINE[21] BTN (nnNM WID LINE[21] BTN) Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn] – Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn] [– Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn]] [– Nnn[nn] or Snn[nn] Wnnn[nn] or Ennn[nn]]	~~APRX~~ WI 50KM WID LINE BTN N64 W017 – N57 W005 – N55 E010 – N55 E03