

COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL VOLCANIC ASH TASK FORCE (IVATF)

1. COMPOSITION

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Romania, United Kingdom, United States, Agence pour la Sécurité de la Navigation Aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar (ASECNA), Airports Council International (ACI), Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), European Space Agency (ESA), European Commission (EC), European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL), International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations (IAOPA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), Chairman of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG), International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Associations (ICCAIA), International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA), International Federation of Airline Dispatchers Associations (IFALDA), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and World Organization of Volcano Observatories (WOVO).

The Secretary of the task force is Mr. Greg Brock, C/MET, ICAO Air Navigation Bureau (ANB) assisted by Mr. Raúl Romero, Secretary of the IAVWOPSG, ICAO ANB. Additional Secretariat support is provided in particular by the Flight Operations, the Air Traffic Management, and the Future Aviation Systems and Technology Sections of the ICAO ANB.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 The International Volcanic Ash Task Force (IVATF) is a multi-disciplinary global group and a focal point and coordinating body of all work related to volcanic ash being carried out by ICAO at the global and regional levels. It will address issues related to air traffic management (ATM), airworthiness, aeronautical meteorology (MET) and atmospheric sciences and is tasked to identify work that needs to be undertaken, together with plans on how to progress them relying, to the extent possible, on existing bodies, such as the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG). Any need for amendments to ICAO provisions, which are identified will be forwarded to the appropriate ICAO body for further action.

2.2 The IVATF works, to the extent possible, through correspondence, thus limiting the need for meetings to preferably not more than one per year. Between the meetings, the work will be progressed by the IVATF sub-groups with the following areas of expertise (the name of the group in brackets):

- a) air traffic management (ATM sub-group);
- b) airworthiness (AIR sub-group);
- c) science (SCI sub-group); and
- d) international airways volcano watch (IAVW coordination group).

2.3 After each meeting, quarterly teleconferences of the sub-groups will be held (in October, January and April) to monitor progress, i.e. at the teleconferences, the project managers of each sub-group will provide progress reports and identify any issues which need to be brought to the attention of the IVATF as a whole. Project managers of the sub-groups may, if considered necessary, convene additional teleconferences within their respective sub-groups.

2.4 The IVATF is tasked to undertake, in close coordination with the IAVWOPSG and other appropriate ICAO groups, the following tasks:

- a) evaluation of the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland in April/May 2010, plus other significant eruptions or regional volcanic ash exercises of relevance;
- b) propose revision of guidance on volcanic ash contingency plans;
- c) review of operational response to volcanic ash encounter;
- d) development of ash concentration thresholds, if deemed appropriate;
- e) improvement of ash detection systems;
- f) review of notification and warning for volcanic ash;
- g) improvement and harmonization of dispersion models; and
- h) improvement of volcanic ash advisory centre (VAAC) products, including volcanic ash advisories in graphical format.

2.5 The details of the tasks, together with the expected deliverables, completion dates and coordination plans, are to be determined at each meeting of the IVATF.

2.6 The IVATF is expected to complete its work by July 2012. Any tasks and associated deliverables outstanding by July 2012 will be transferred to the IAVWOPSG or other appropriate ICAO bodies. The composition of such ICAO bodies should be reviewed in light of those tasks transferred.

— END —