

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**WORKING PAPER**



ICAO

**Eighteenth Meeting of the Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/18) and Tenth Meeting of the Meteorological Services Working Group (MET/S WG/10)**

Web-conference, 27 to 31 July 2020

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**Agenda Item 4: Guidance material related to meteorological information exchange**

**ROBEX HANDBOOK UPDATES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents updates to the Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange (ROBEX) Handbook and invites the meeting to review and endorse the updates.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Improved availability of operational meteorological information (or OPMET bulletins), provided by ICAO Member States for flight planning and in-flight re-planning, supports the safety and efficiency of international air navigation. The Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange (ROBEX) Handbook provides guidance to States on the optimization of the ROBEX scheme; it defines the responsibilities and procedures for the ROBEX centres and the content and format of the ROBEX bulletins.

1.2 The MET/IE WG keeps the ROBEX scheme under review and prepares proposals, as necessary, for updating and optimizing the ROBEX Handbook. ICAO publishes and keeps up-to-date the ROBEX Handbook on the ICAO APAC Office website at: [www.icao.int/apac](http://www.icao.int/apac) > APAC eDocuments > MET.

1.3 ICAO published the latest version of the ROBEX Handbook, the Thirteenth Edition, dated March 2019, in November 2019, based on updates proposed by a special ad-hoc group of the MET/IE WG and endorsed by the Twenty-second Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group (MET SG/22) in June 2018.

1.4 This paper presents proposed updates to the ROBEX Handbook and invites the meeting to review and endorse the updates for possible approval by MET SG/24 (tentative date, November 2020).

## **2. DISCUSSION**

### Proposed updates to ROBEX Handbook, Appendix I

2.1 In November 2019, ICAO disseminated by e-mail to States, a request to update the ROBEX Focal Point information in Appendix I to the ROBEX Handbook. In response, ICAO received updated ROBEX Focal Point information from eight (8) States/Administrative Regions. The proposed updates to the Appendix I to the ROBEX Handbook are provided at the **Appendix A** to this paper.

### Proposed updates to ROBEX Handbook, Appendices A and B

2.2 Effective from May 14, 2020, Thailand made the following changes to the ROBEX Bulletins compiled by Regional OPMET Centre Bangkok (VTBB):

- Removed Songkhla Airport (VTSH) and Pattani (VTSK) from the Bulletins SATH32 and FTTH32; and
- Removed Surin Airport (VTUJ) from the Bulletins SATH33 and FTTH33.

2.3 The above changes by Thailand would necessitate consequential updates to the ROBEX Handbook Appendix A – Collection and Dissemination of METAR (SA) Bulletins and Appendix B – Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins.

2.4 The above requirement to update the ROBEX Handbook is discussed further in the separate paper presented by Thailand; WP/09 – *Update to the ROBEX Handbook*.

## **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 This paper invites the meeting to review and endorse the proposed updates to the ROBEX Handbook as discussed above and presented at the **Appendix A** to this paper for possible approval by MET SG/24.

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## APPENDIX I - ROBEX FOCAL POINTS

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