

International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

**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)**



ICAO

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Agenda Item 4: Guidance material related to meteorological information exchange

REVISED AND HARMONIZED OPMET NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

(Presented by Chair of MET/IE Working Group)

SUMMARY

Currently the European and Asia Pacific procedure for notifying of changes to OPMET bulletins (METNO) are different. This paper proposes to harmonise the EUR and APAC METNO procedures with a broader aim of having a globally harmonised procedure.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Asia Pacific Region (APAC) ROBEX Handbook contains the procedure for notifying of new, changes to existing and cessation of Operational Meteorological Information (OPMET) bulletins, known as the METNO procedure. Other regions, including Europe (EUR), have a similar procedure.

1.2 The sixth meeting of Meteorological Panel Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange meeting (WG-MIE), in Offenbach, Germany, October 2019, discussed inter-Regional coordination and it was agreed that it was highly desirable to adopt a globally harmonized OPMET Data Update (METNO) procedure.

1.3 As the APAC and EUR METNO procedures are close (but not identical) and in order to improve interregional coordination on the notification of changes in the OPMET data dissemination between different ICAO Regions, harmonization of METNO procedures could be pursued beginning with the ICAO EUR and APAC Regions

1.4 There are no obligations to have strictly identical procedures. It is necessary that the different procedures are at a minimum compatible (if not identical), based on AIRAC cycles for TAC & IWXXM and that the way of informing the other regions is standardized and synchronized.

2. DISCUSSION

General principles

2.1 The agreement could take the form of defining focal points (or a METNO Team) in all regions, which could manage requests in their respective region, send the notification to the other regions and disseminate in their region notifications received from other regions.

2.2 The different procedures should respect the following:

- Request for change sent by a State to the regional focal point/s (which could be ICAO regional office or regional group);
- Follow the region's procedure for dealing with the request (e.g. verifying it follows the Regional Air Navigation Plan (ANP));
- Accept or provide feedback on the METNO request within an agreed period of time (e.g. one AIRAC cycle);
- Communication of the acceptance internally to the region and to the other regions focal point; and
- Sequence based on the AIRAC cycles.

Harmonization between all regions

2.3 An initial analysis shows that the syntax about creation/deletion of bulletins as well as adding/deleted messages within the same bulletin are identical in EUR and APAC.

2.4 The EUR METNO procedure also includes some additional features (e.g. changes to validity times for TAF data). The European Data Management Group agreed during its 28th session to propose the deletion of this part of the procedure next European Meteorological Group meeting (METG/30).

2.5 The minimum requirement to assure the compatibility would be defining the same structure of notification sent at the same period before a new AIRAC cycle, to a regional dissemination list and to the other regional focal points (email) and/or agreed Inter-regional OPMET gateway (IROG) addresses (AFTN, AMHS) for further regional dissemination. The advantage of a compatible syntax of the METNO messages is that it allows automatic processing.

Harmonization EUR – APAC

2.6 The formalism with regular METNO and EXTRA(extraordinary) METNO based on a fix schedule during AIRAC cycles (one AIRAC cycle in advance only) could be generalized leading to the procedure as detailed in appendix A of this WP.

2.7 EUR make their changes at 11:00Z and APAC may wish to consider a more suitable agreed time for implementing bulletin changes (Refer A.1.8).

2.8 If MET/IE WG accepts to implement a harmonized METNO procedure, then DMG can offer assistance if needed, e.g. by creating a start-up OPMET catalogue of inter-regionally distributed data.

- 2.9 The schema with the scheduled dates is provided in Appendix B.
- 2.10 Some pre-requisites are described in Appendix C.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
 - a) note the information contained in this paper;
 - b) discuss the merits of aligning METNO procedures with EUR;
 - c) discuss at what time changes should be scheduled in APAC;
 - d) discuss, refine and agree on the METNO procedure and schedule (Appendix A & B);
 - e) discuss and select focal points for reviewing METNO requests; and
 - f) formulate decision and action.

Appendix A – METNO Procedure

A.1 General rules

- A.1.1 Modification requests to the production of national OPMET-data shall be reported by the NOC (National OPMET Centre) to the Regional OPMET Centre (ROC). The ROC then forwards the requests to the regional Focal point (FP) or regional Team for publication, evaluation and FP processing accepted changes.
- A.1.1.1 The regional FP or regional Team verifies the conformity of the change proposal against ICAO DOC7910 (only registered Location Indicators can be accepted), electronic ANP (eANP) Volume II MET tables, WMO No. 386 documents and that the syntax is conform to the METNO procedure. Implementation of IWXXM data: no IWXXM without TAC will be accepted. In addition, separated bulletins will be produced for AOP airport and agreed exchanged non AOP airports OPMET data.
- A.1.2 Modification requests for an upcoming AIRAC date have to be sent at the latest by the preceding AIRAC date. This will guarantee that all subsequent steps can be performed in time. For planning purposes modification requests should be provided well in advance (between 30 and 60 days before the AIRAC date) to allow full assessment by the regional FP (or regional group in charge of OPMET) and to provide confirmation to the originator that all changes will be made at the required date.
- A.1.3 The regional FP will summarize all requests and present those via email to the regional group in charge of OPMET at the latest 7 days after the preceding AIRAC date.
- A.1.4 The regional group members will review the requests and shall communicated any comments to the FP at the latest 14 days after the preceding (*14 days before the upcoming*) AIRAC date. Nil comments shall be considered as a positive response.
- A.1.5 At 21 days after the preceding (*7 days before the upcoming*) AIRAC date, the FP shall announce the list of accepted amendments to the ICAO Regional Office, the NOCs by means of a standard formatted METNO message for routine meteorological information sent via Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS - SADIS and WIFS by their regional associated ROC).
- A.1.6 The involved NOCs in turn shall notify users in their State about their requested modifications.
- A.1.7 In addition, regional contacts (as agreed during regional MET meeting) will receive a confirmation by email. Motivated subscription to (or to unsubscribe from) the METNO Bulletins can be submitted via the regional MET Group or directly by utilizing the contact form provided on the regional Website (where available).
- A.1.8 The modifications shall be implemented by all affected centres on AIRAC date, at 11:00 UTC (to be confirmed for APAC) or when a new bulletin header is created, on opening hours the day before the implementation date.
- A.1.9 The AIRAC OPMET data updates shall be applied by:

The ROCs and IROGs for routing the current OPMET data in accordance with the dissemination regional Schema.

- A.1.10 In order to avoid difficulties in processing OPMET Data modifications during major holidays, it can be decided to skip a particular AIRAC Cycle occurring in these periods.
- A.1.11 For urgent modification, it can be decided with the explicit agreement of the regional METNO focal point/regional team to proceed more quickly by deviation to the normal schedule. The FP/regional team will compile AIRAC METNO, or EXTRA METNO for intermediate updates with immediate implementation of new or expiring bulletins.
- A.1.12 Key issues to be considered for the management of AFS data traffic volumes are:
- Avoid data duplication.
 - Authenticated data only.
 - eANP required data (AOP).
 - Agreed exchanged Non-AOP data.
- A.1.13 Standardized Regional OPMET Data Catalogues including METNO-registered data can be compiled from the database of METNO-registered OPMET data: TAC & IWXXM, on AFS:
- Regional OPMET Database (RODB) catalogue.
 - Regional and Global OPMET data catalogues.

A.2 Format and Content of the METNO-message

A.2.1 The METNO Syntax

The syntax of a METNO statement is presented hereafter. It may also include the list of AFS addressees actually used as well as examples for the various OPMET data update METNO statements.

A.2.2 The METNO Header

The header of the METNO bulletin is: **NOXX31 CCCC YYGGgg**, where

- XX is a general area designator (example : EU for EUR, AF for AFI ...)
- CCCC is the AFTN location indicator of the regional FP Centre (example: EBBR for EUR)

A.2.3 The METNO statements for registration and updating of OPMET / IWXXM data are:

- ADDRPT / RMVRPT: for adding / removing Routine OPMET data in an already registered bulletin.
- NEWBUL / DELBUL: for registering a new / unregistering an expiring (Non-)Routine OPMET bulletin and its contained data.
- NEWTIM / DELTIM: for the registration / updating the registration of METAR observation times or TAF validity periods.

A.2.3.1 ADDRPT

This statement is used when a new location indicator is added to an already registered bulletin. It can be used in combination with METAR or TAF bulletins.

Adding TAC-formatted METARs/TAFs to a registered bulletin does not automatically register the IWXXM equivalent data. TAC data can exist without a IWXXM until November 2020.

Adding IWXXM METARs/TAFs to a registered bulletin will by default result in adding the equivalent TAC METARs/TAFs for their parallel distribution. There can be no IWXXM data without any equivalent TAC-formatted version of the data.

A.2.3.2 RMVRPT

This statement is used for METARs/TAFs planned to be removed from an already registered bulletin. Removed reports can possibly be registered for all location in other existing or in new registered bulletins.

Removing TAC-formatted METARs/TAFs from a registered bulletin will also remove the equivalent IWXXM data from the OPMET data register in case it has already been registered. There is no IWXXM data without equivalent TAC-formatted data.

Removing IWXXM METARs/TAFs will by default result in removing equivalent TAC METARs/TAFs from the OPMET data register. If the TAC data need to be continued, it has to be re-registered explicitly, using ADDRPT.

A.2.3.3 NEWBUL

This statement is used for the registration of a new bulletin. It can be used for all supported data.

The registration of a new IWXXM bulletin by default implies the introduction of the TAC equivalent.

A.2.3.4 DELBUL

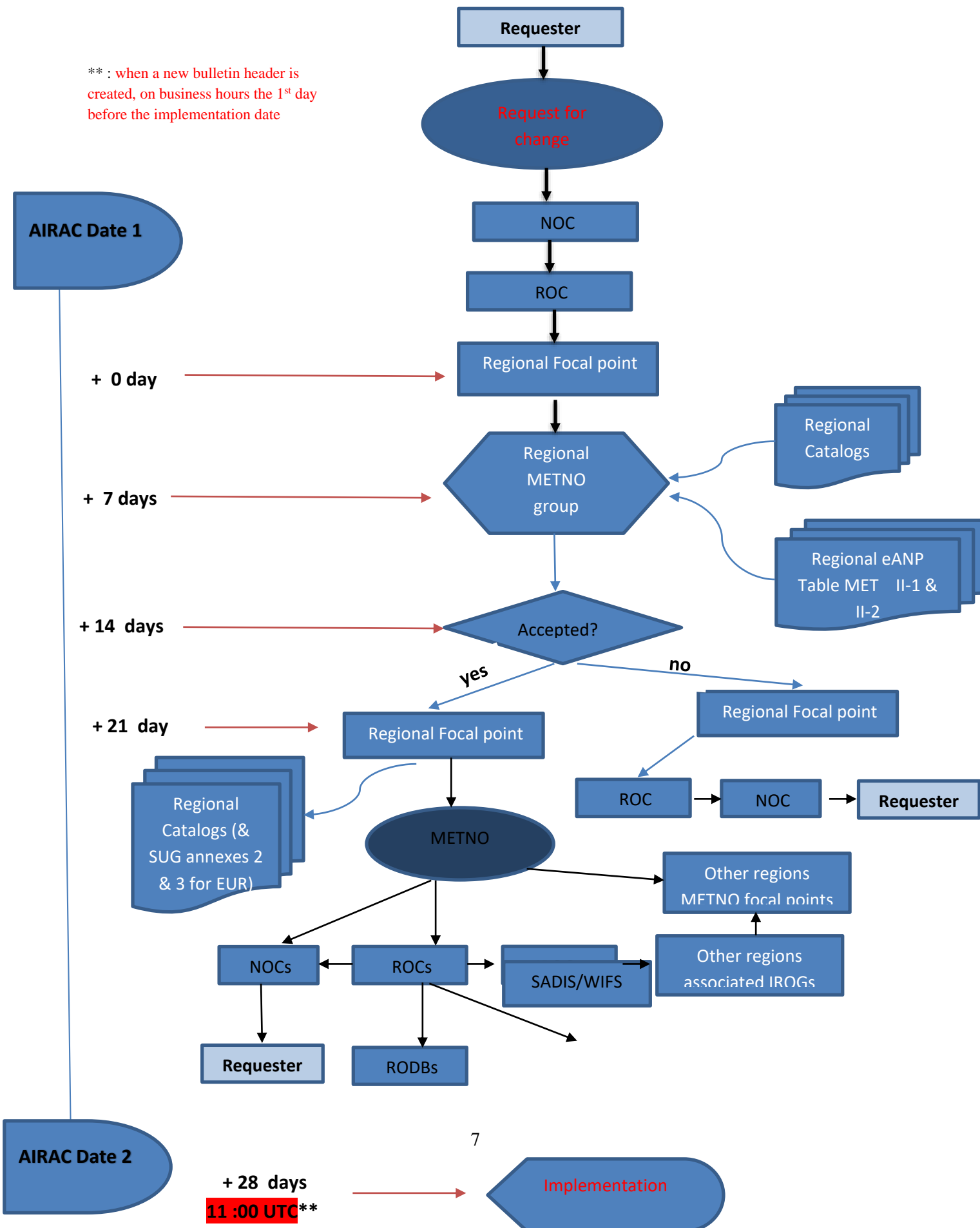
This statement is used for the deletion of a registered bulletin. It can be used for all supported data types.

The deletion of a registered IWXXM bulletin implies automatically the deletion of the TAC equivalent. TAC equivalents which are meant to be continued have to be re-introduced explicitly by applying NEWBUL.

Deletion of TAC OPMET bulletin by default also deletes the IWXXM equivalent.

Appendix B – Process Diagram

** : when a new bulletin header is created, on business hours the 1st day before the implementation date



Appendix C Focal Point Prerequisites & Actions

C.1.1 The Focal Point/regional group prerequisites are:

- Generic email address: including FP persons and backups.
- AFS connection address
- Access to ICAO references: documents and Regional contacts.
- Data management software for processing basic lists of METNO-registered data to be shared inter-regionally in standardized international data formats (*.csv, *.txt).

C.1.2 The FP/regional group receives update requests any time by email:

- Preferably via ROC, but also from NOCs.
- After authentication, sort updates based on suggested implementation date: AIRAC if no date proposed.
- Compiles AIRAC METNO, or EXTRA METNO for intermediate updates with immediate implementation of new or expiring bulletins.

C.1.3 Forward requests for ANP additional OPMET data via email to the Regional ICAO Office contact.

C.1.4 Co-ordination and evaluation of received update requests via email.

C.1.5 Compilation of AIRAC / EXTRA METNO bulletin for distribution to regional ROCs / IROGs.

C.1.6 Maintenance of regional METNOs and registered OPMET data

C.1.7 Reports to OPMET regional group.

C.1.8 Facilitates OPMET data monitoring