International Civil Aviation Organization

INFORMATION PAPER

Eighteenth Meeting of the Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/18)

Tenth Meeting of the Meteorological Services Working Group (MET/S WG/10)

Web-conference, 27 to 31 July 2020

Agenda Item 3: Monitoring of meteorological information exchange

STATUS OF IWXXM IN NEW ZEALAND

(Presented by New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This information paper provides an update on the implementation status of the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) in New Zealand.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Amendment 78 to Annex 3 makes the dissemination of routine OPMET (METAR & TAF) and non-routine OPMET (SPECI, AIRMET, SIGMET, VAA, TCA and SWXA) using the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) a standard from November 2020.

2. DISCUSSION

Generation of OPMET in IWXXM

2.1 New Zealand's Meteorological Service Provider (MetService) intends to generate SIGMETs, VAAs and, when required, TCAs (as backup for TCAC Nadi) IWXXM from source, using its forecasting tool Visual Weather – pending a successful software upgrade later in the year. METARs will be translated into IWXXM from TAC, using a Netsys Message Handling Switch (MHS). The method for generating IWXXM format TAFs is still to be determined – it may be achieved by an upgrade to the internal TAF generation tool, or otherwise TAFs will also translated using the MHS.

Consumption and use of IWXXM

2.2 At present most of the users of OPMET in New Zealand can only handle TAC. All OPMET (that has an IWXXM version) will be produced in both TAC and IWXXM, as outlined above. Where translation is made, it will be done in one place and in one direction. Initially, this direction will be from TAC to IWXXM.

2.3 There will no attempt at ensuring that both TAC and IWXXM versions exist of incoming OPMET from other OPMET centres. No translation of external data will occur unless it is by official agreement with the originating country. Effectively, TAC & IWXXM versions of the same data will be treated completely independently.

International Exchange of IWXXM

2.4 MetService is planning to distribute IWXXM format TAFs and METARs (flagged with TEST status) from the end of July, with the remaining OPMET dependent on the Visual Weather upgrade timing. The IWXXM OPMET will be delivered to the RODBs using an extended AMHS connection from New Zealand via Salt Lake City. The majority of domestic circuits in New Zealand are still only AFTN, so most delivery will continue to be via TAC until users are capable of accepting IWXXM, or will otherwise be made available from MetService via an API.

2.5 The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and MetService are currently coordinating plans for the exchange of IWXXM over non-aviation networks to test generation and ingestion of each other's products. This exchange will migrate to using AMHS/FTBP, once full end-to-end connectivity is in place.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 Note the information contained in this paper.

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