

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**INFORMATION PAPER**



ICAO

**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 AND PLANS FOR IWXXM IN FIJI**

(Presented by Fiji)

**SUMMARY**

This paper provides a brief update on the status and plans for the support of ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) format information in Australia.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Amendment 78 to Annex 3 recommends the international exchange of XML formatted METAR/SPECI, TAF, AIRMET, SIGMET, Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA) and Tropical Cyclone Advisory (TCA). It is understood that the planned Amendment 78 to Annex 3 (November 2018) is expected to make this a standard from November 2020.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 As reported previously, to support the introduction of IWXXM, Fiji needed to make a range of changes to its systems and processes. Based on the information in ICAO Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET data exchange using IWXXM, the following changes were planned to support the introduction of IWXXM:

- Upgrade our current AFTN/AMHS system to be able to receive and store IWXXM meteorological reports by the different states under our area of coverage/responsibilities as well as our Local Met provider (FMS).
- Have the capabilities to store and forward the different types of weather data (IWXXM & TAC)
- Compilation of IWXXM bulletins;
- Enabling File Transfer Body Part (FTBP) on the Air Traffic Services (ATS) Message Handling System (AMHS) connections to USA and Brisbane RODBs; and

**Agenda Item 3**

27-31/07/20

- Exchange IWXXM bulletins with Air Services Australia RODB and with other states including our domestic users who have the capability to process the new data format.

**3. FIJI'S ROAD MAP TOWARDS IWXXM IMPLEMENTATION – PRE COVID**

3.1. Fiji have been in discussion with our system supplier on our plan to migrate and comply with the ICAO mandate to implement digital IWXXM messaging format by November 2020.

3.2. Considering our status in the region as an ANSP, apart from our role as and RODB/ROBEX centre, we also have to consider upgrading on our other services such as AIS → AIM as well as Flight Data → FIXM.

3.3. Our system supplier have proposed a complete solution for our plan to migrate to a digital database platform to allow us to be able to address all our needs. Their solution for IWXXM migration has been evaluated as most cost effective and can also be implemented in phases that will also allow parallel operation for the Met data both in TAC & IWXXM format.

3.4. Fiji plans to kick-off our system implementation upgrade project by 3rd Quarter of 2019 and is expected to be completed by the 3rd Quarter of 2020. This will give us more time for testing and implementation with other RODB and comply by November, 2020.

3.5. To support the introduction of IWXXM, we are also in discussion with our weather data provider (FMS) on the need to comply to the following range of changes to its system to allow them to exchange data using the new IWXXM format;

- Upgrading its link to the Nadi RODB from IP to AMHS (with extended services)
- Importantly, the need to have direct generation of IWXXM messages from source to eliminate the need to have converters/translators noting the limitations faced when converting or translating such messages.

3.6 Given the difficulties faced by some regional countries in upgrading its system to allow IWXXM generation from source by 2020, RODB Nadi may offer a translation service from TAC to IWXXM on behalf of these Countries or Aerodromes.

**4. DELAY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

4.1. The current COVID-19 pandemic currently affecting most of the states, Fiji has been affected in its implementation plan and will not be able to meet the ICAO date of November 2020. However, we are committed to proceed as planned as soon as everything is normalized in as far as the pandemic is concerned. Fiji now anticipate to upgrade its system by 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021.

**5. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

5.1. Note the information contained in this paper.

-----