



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Fourth Meeting of Spectrum Review Working Group (SRWG/4)

Bangkok, Thailand, 9 - 10 June 2020

Agenda Item 5: Next meeting and any other business

REVIEW OF TOR AND ACTION LIST

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the development and achievements made in APAC Region since SRWG/3, and the TOR with Action List for review by this meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CNS SG/17 meeting held in May 2013 in Bangkok discussed the issue of proposed deployment of 8.33 kHz channel spacing in the band 117.975-137 MHz in APAC Region (WP/24 by India). The meeting agreed to a proposal to establish a small working group to investigate the need for an increase in available VHF COM channels and on the basis of result of analysis to make a recommendation for further consideration by the Sub-group. Accordingly, the meeting developed following Decision:

Decision 17/6 – Establishment of Spectrum Review Working Group on 8.33 kHz channel spacing

That, ICAO Regional Office is requested to issue a letter to the States/Administrations concerned for nomination of spectrum management expert members of the spectrum review working group to study the requirement of 8.33 kHz channel spacing.

1.2 APANPIRG/24 meeting held in June 2013, noted above decision and the establishment of a small working group to investigate the need for an increase in available VHF COM channels and, on the basis of the outcome, to develop recommendations for further consideration by the CNS SG.

1.3 As a follow-up to this decision, a letter AP-CNS0009/14 dated 20 January 2014 was issued. Australia, China, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand were requested to nominate qualified **Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)** to participate in the study.

1.4 Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Paul Dowsett from Airservices Australia, former chair of SRWG, with contributions from Mr. Frederic Lecat, a former ICAO APAC Regional Officer (CNS), the following meetings of the WG have been held with significant development and achievements:

- SRWG/1 26-27 June 2014 in Bangkok with 8 participants from 5 States
- SRWG/2 12-14 May 2015 in Bangkok with 17 participants from 9 States
- SRWG/3 31 May - 02 June 2016 in Bangkok with 11 participants from 7 States

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- SRWG Webconference 1 30 September 2014, 7 participants from 4 States
- SRWG Webconference 2 05 November 2014, 9 participants from 6 States
- SRWG Webconference 3 13 January 2015, 9 participants from 5 States
- SRWG Webconference 4 02 July 2015, 8 participants from 5 States
- SRWG Webconference 5 18 February 2016, 6 participants from 5 States

1.5 And the report and papers considered by the Third Meeting of Spectrum Review Working Group (SRWG/3) can be found at <http://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2016-SRWG3.aspx>.

1. DISCUSSION**Development and Achievements since last meeting**

2.1 The main outcomes of the SRWG/3 and follow-up work to be conducted were reviewed by CNS SG/20 held on 11-15 July 2016 through WP14, and were further noted by APANPIRG/27 held from 5 to 8 September 2016 under its agenda item 3.4. It was reminded that Conclusion APANPIRG/26/47 adopted in 2015 invites States to submit and update their operational needs in terms of VHF frequencies (international and national) on a yearly basis to the ICAO Regional Office.

2.2 The most significant outcome of SRWG/3 was that *no congestion of VHF frequencies was expected in the next 5 years in APAC Region, subject to new simulation in 2017-2018 if operational needs were significantly amended*. Simulation results obtained by India would allow India to meet their operational needs, provided that the frequencies may be found outside frequency pools (as defined by ASIA/PAC/3/RAN Meeting Conclusion 11/4), which is in line with the Volume II of ICAO Doc.9718 and implemented by **Frequency Finder**. The meeting discussed that with the expected growth in traffic, national planning of frequencies should take care of the increasing probability of simultaneous transmissions. The subject could be further discussed at **SRWG/4**.

2.3 As a follow-up to **APANPIRG Conclusion/26/48 Transition to the new global database** and with respect to conclusion bullet (a), the meeting was informed that ICAO HQ had secured resources to implement and maintain the global **Frequency Finder** tool. Regarding bullet (b) of the same Conclusion, a workshop on Frequency Finder was scheduled in the week of 18 to 21 October 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. All States/Administrations were encouraged to participate in the workshop. The SRWG/4 was planned for March 2017 (if back to back with FSMP) or week of 29 May to 2 June 2017.

2.4 The Workshop on frequency assignment planning using Frequency Finder (FF) was held as scheduled. The objective of the Workshop was to familiarize the participants with the operation of FF, the new ICAO global aeronautical radio frequency management tool for VHF COM frequency assignments (Frequency List No.3). The workshop provided necessary support to aviation experts in APAC Region for their work relating to the spectrum management and requirement.

2.5 The workshop was moderated by Mr. Loftur Jonasson and Mr. Robert Witzgen who is main developer of the Frequency Finder and was also the Secretary of the Aeronautical Communications Panel for many years. Through the discussion, *the participants of the workshop agreed that the regular publication (currently once a year at either end of the year or beginning of a new year) of the Frequency List No.3 i.e. VHF communication frequency list will no longer be required as the global database of frequencies included in the FF would provide an up-to-date status of frequencies assigned or used by States/Administrations*. However, the access procedure by the designated contact points by States/Administrations to the FF should be provided to States accordingly. The Summary of Discussions and other materials are available at: <https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2016-FF-Workshop.aspx>.

2.6 With the aforementioned information, current aeronautical frequency management provision and procedure adopted in APAC through **Conclusion APANPIRG/26/47 – Strategic planning and tactical use of VHF frequencies in the APAC Region from 2015 onwards** was reviewed by CNS SG/21 held from 17 to 21 July 2017 and further noted by APANPIRG/28 held from 11 to 14 September 2017. It was noted that *transition to a new global database for VHF communication bands coordination using the ICAO Frequency Finder tool was taken place since November 2016.*

Future Focus of the Working Group

2.7 The CNS SG/18 meeting held in Beijing, China, from 21 to 25 July 2014, reviewed the outcome of SRWG/1 and the terms of reference drafted by the SRWG/1 meeting, adopted the following Decision:

Decision 18/19 - Adoption of the Terms of Reference of SRWG

That, the Terms of Reference of SRWG placed at **Appendix U** (to the report) be adopted.

2.8 The Term of Reference of SRWG adopted by CNS SG/18 is provided at **Appendix A** to this paper for further review by this meeting.

2.9 Since the SRWG/1 meeting, there were different action items introduced and assigned to concerned action parties. During SRWG/2, the action items from SRWG/1 were reviewed and updated by the meeting, and were further summarized into the action table/list. SRWG/3 updated the action list against the status of different action item in the meeting, and the OPEN action items were reproduced in a revised action list provided to this paper in **Appendix B** for further review and update by this meeting.

2.10 The SRWG was established through CNS SG Decision 17/6. Significant achievements have been made in frequency planning for APAC region. It could be considered that most of the tasks and deliverables outlined in TOR have successfully made, and the value of this platform was also highly recognized by States/Administrations.

2.11 In November 2016, ICAO Frequency Finder tool was successfully implemented in APAC region to support the transition to a new global database for VHF communication bands coordination. FREQUENCY LIST NO. 3 (List of facilities in the band 117.975 - 137.000 MHz) has not been published by ICAO APAC Office since 2017.

2.12 The possible areas of focus for the working group in future is to be discussed during this meeting with considering the latest updates and experience sharing by participants. The suggested works may be of interest to the working group would be proposed for consideration by the meeting to outline its future work plan if necessary.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review the TOR of SRWG provided in **Appendix A**;
- b) review and update the Action List provided in **Appendix B**; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

SPECTRUM REVIEW WORKING GROUP (SRWG)

Terms of Reference

In order to investigate the need for an increase in available VHF COM channels and, on the basis of the outcome, to develop recommendations for further consideration by the CNS SG, the APAC **SPECTRUM REVIEW WORKING GROUP**:

- develops an approach supported by new tools & criteria being introduced at ICAO global level, since they are likely to bring enhanced possibilities of VHF frequencies assignments;
- delivers a high level implementation plan for States/Administrations in the APAC region to implement the VHF assignments in a coordinated manner with ANSP, CAA and national frequency Authorities;
- proposes improvements to the existing regional VHF frequency assignment process based on the ICAO Global Spectrum Management tool, ICAO 9718 Volume II Handbook provisions and current coordination issues;
- develops an approach to transition to the new ICAO global database; and
- based on the above, develops recommendations for CNS SG about how to address the future operational needs and current limitations in VHF voice communications, aiming at avoiding introduction of 8.33 kHz spacing in the APAC Region for as long as practicable.

SRWG/3
Appendix C to the Report

Reference	Who	What	Due date	Status	Completed on	Result	Comment
A 2-4	Robert Witzel	to propose a DOC for AOC	14-Oct-16	Open			SRWG/3: Deadline extended
A 2-7	All	to check consistency between global database and frequency list 3	14-Oct-16	Open			SRWG/5 webconference: Date postponed from 15 Dec. 15 to 20 May 2016 Completed by Japan in May 2016 SRWG/3: target date extended to 14 Oct 2016
A 3-1	Robert Witzel	to run new simulations in 2017 or 2018 if the captured operational needs have significantly increased.	20-May-18	Open			
A 3-2	All	consider if options for coordination of classified VHF assignments are practicable	14-Oct-16	Open			
A 3-3	All	States/Administrations to consider which backup frequencies currently assigned they can release	14-Oct-16	Open			
A 3-4	All	States/Administrations to try and use the backup frequencies template and propose improvements	14-Oct-16	Open			