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*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**Sixteenth Meeting of the ICAO Aeronautical Information Services – Aeronautical Information Management Implementation Task Force (AAITF/16)**

Video Teleconference, 07 – 11 June 2021

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**Agenda Item 5: Regional AIM Guidance and Planning**

**SNOWTAM FORMAT IMPLEMENTATION**

(Presented by FIJI)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents information and update to the AAITF 16 on Fiji's progress towards the implementation of the new SNOWTAM format to support the new Global Reporting Format (GRF) for Runway Surface Conditions applicable 04 November 2021.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 ICAO State Letter AN 2/2.4-16/18, date 11 July 2016, notified States of the adoption of Amendment 39 to Annex 15 Aeronautical Information Services. This included Amendment 39B, which was to become applicable on 05 November 2020. This applicability date was later postponed via ICAO State Letter AN 73-2020 to 4 November 2021.

1.2 The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a delay to the upgrade of Fiji's Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS). This upgrade was necessary to enable the processing (receipt & disseminate) of the new SNOWTAM format. In light of the current system limitation to process the new SNOWTAM format, Fiji has identified a procedural work around as a temporary solution to enable the dissemination of the required information on runway surface conditions in the new global reporting format.

1.3 The information on the runway surface conditions will be disseminated as an Airfield Condition (AFCON) NOTAM instead of the mandated SNOWTAM format. The use of AFCON NOTAM has been adapted from the Federal Aviation Administration's FICON NOTAM procedures.

1.4 The use of this alternative means of compliance will be in place until Fiji is able to upgrade its system, tentatively scheduled for 2022.

**2. DISCUSSION/**

Airfield Condition (AFCON) NOTAM

2.1 The abbreviation "AFCON" in the NOTAM will enable quick identification by pilots and airline dispatchers of NOTAMs containing information on runway surface conditions.

2.2 The AFCON NOTAM is a normal NOTAM containing information on the runway surface condition in field E set out in the Global Reporting Format. Example below:

**Example**

(A0102/21 NOTAMN  
Q) NFFF/QMRXX/IV/NBO/A/000/999  
A) NFFN B) TIME OF OBSERVATION C) 8 HOURS FROM TIME OF OBSERVATION  
E) RWY 02 OPERATIONAL BUT CTN ADZ DUE AFCON 3/2/6,  
20/25/NR, WET/STANDING WATER/DRY. BA MEDIUM)

2.3 An Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) will be issued on the implementation of the AFCON NOTAM by Fiji.

2.4 The AIC will provide information on the following:

2.4.1 Acquisition of SNOWTAM data by departing international flights from international aerodromes within Fiji;

2.4.2 Acquisition of AFCON NOTAMs from the Fiji Airports website;

2.4.3 AFCON NOTAM procedures; and

2.4.4 Compilation of AFCON NOTAM.

2.5 Fiji will be filing the necessary differences with ICAO on this issue.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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