

International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO

**Eighth Meeting of Aeronautical Communication Service
Implementation Co-ordination Group of APANPIRG
(ACSICG/8)**

Video Tele-Conference, 21 – 23 June 2021

- Agenda Item 5:** Review and update the AMHS/ATN Implementation Status
- 5.1 Update status of AMHS implementation
- 5.2 Report on the readiness status of AMHS to support IWXXM
- Note: Member States are expected to provide readiness status for supporting IWXXM traffic (Annex 1)

**AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE MESSAGE HANDLING SYSTEMS (AMHS) READINESS TO
SUPPORT ICAO METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE MODEL (IWXXM)
IN AUSTRALIA**

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This information paper demonstrates how Australia became fully ready to exchange IWXXM via AMHS on the global mandated commencement date of 5 November 2020.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Amendment 79 to Annex 3 came into effect on 5 November 2020 and requires States to arrange the international exchange of OPMET data in the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) format. AMHS is the designated distribution mechanism for IWXXM.

1.2 IWXXM is distributed in parallel with Traditional Alphanumeric Code (TAC) data that has previously been distributed by AFTN and AMHS.

1.3 IWXXM can only be distributed by AMHS as a message attachment using the File Transfer Body Part (FTBP) function.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Australian Aeronautical Messaging System (AAMS, local name of the Australian Message Transfer Agent MTA) has been actively routing IWXXM reports via AMHS through the APAC region since the mandated date of 5 November 2020.

2.2 In preparation for the November 2020 IWXXM requirement, several upgrades were performed on the national MTA and its various P1 and P3 AMHS connections with international and domestic partners.

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- To allow sufficient capacity through Australia as an APAC Backbone site, P1 AMHS connections with other member states have been established over the Common Aeronautical VPN (CRV) network with:
 - USA (June 2019)
 - Fiji (July 2019)
 - New Zealand (Oct 2020)
 - Singapore (Nov 2020)
- The P1 AMHS connection with South Africa / Johannesburg remains on a leased line until South Africa subscribes to the CRV or an alternative, and the current AFTN connections with Indonesia and PNG are yet to be upgraded to AMHS over CRV.
- In addition, to increase resilience for the very unlikely event of an overall CRV failure, Airservices is working on the establishment of backup AMHS connections over B2B VPN protocols with its existing AMHS partners.

2.3 A P3 AMHS connection with FTBP functionality was established from the Airservices' owned Meteorological Information Server (MIS) to the national MTA. Our Australian Bureau of Meteorology (IWXXM producer) started publishing its IWXXM files to the MIS from the 5th of November 2020. The MIS as a UA originates the AMHS messages with IWXXM attachment and delivery occurs to the national MTA.

2.4 To enhance security as per ICAO IWXXM guidelines, virus scanning of in- and outgoing AMHS messages with attachment was enabled on the national MTA after testing.

Summary

2.5 Australia is ready to support IWXXM exchange via AMHS, however no end users in Australia have indicated to plan for system upgrades to receive IWXXM as yet.

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 matter as appropriate
