



# ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

## WORKING PAPER

**Nineteenth Meeting of the Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/19)**

Virtual meeting, 22 to 24 March 2021

### **Agenda Item 4: Meteorological information exchange in digital form**

#### **IWXXM TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

(Presented by New Zealand)

#### **SUMMARY**

This paper presents an update on the provision of IWXXM translation services to South Pacific States by Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Wellington, on behalf of ROC Nadi.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Amendment 79 to Annex 3 introduced as a standard the dissemination of routine OPMET (METAR & TAF) and non-routine OPMET (SPECI, AIRMET, SIGMET, VAA and TCA) using the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM).

1.2 The impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic has resulted in many States having to delay the necessary upgrades required to implement the creation and dissemination of OPMET in IWXXM format, with South Pacific States no exception. When ROC Nadi became unable to provide translation services to other South Pacific States, ROC Wellington offered to continue to provide translation services until ROC Nadi can do so themselves (expected during 2021).

1.3 ROC Wellington is operated by New Zealand's Meteorological Service Provider (MetService), which has implemented the ability to translate from Traditional Alphanumeric Codes (TAC) to IWXXM, using a third-party message handling system.

### **2. DISCUSSION**

#### Aerodrome OPMET Translation

2.1 As of 25 February 2021, METAR, SPECI and TAF are being translated and disseminated on behalf of 11 South Pacific States, following receipt of IWXXM translation request forms. The OPMET is for aerodromes for these States, as contained within the APAC Regional Air Navigation Plan Vol. II, Table II-2 Aerodrome Meteorological Office.

2.2 ROC Wellington's message handling system translates entire TAC bulletins and cannot translate only a subset of a bulletin. Prior to translation services initiating, the ROBEX scheme bulletins

**Agenda Item 4**

22-24/03/21

for the South Pacific METARs and TAFs had to be reorganised to ensure that any OPMET *not* requiring translation by ROC Wellington would be contained within a separate bulletin.

2.3 The bulletin changes are outlined in Attachment A to this paper, with a METNO describing the changes sent to APAC ROCs and to gateway IROGs on 28 January 2021. The meeting should note that OPMET for Pago Pago (NSTU) was removed from the SAPS31 NFFN and FTSP31 NFFN bulletins, leaving it available only in the SAUS25 KWBC and FTTPA25 KWBC bulletins, which are not included within the APAC ROBEX scheme.

SIGMET and Tropical Cyclone Advisory (TCA) Translation

2.4 SIGMETs for Honiara, Port Moresby and Nauru Flight Information Regions (FIRs), along with TCA issued by the Nadi Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centre, will be translated and disseminated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021, with the IWXXM header containing the location indicator of the data originator and the IWXXM data indicating the translation provided by ROC Wellington.

Failed Translations

2.5 If a TAC bulletin fails to be translated into IWXXM format, then an automated message will be sent to the data originator, giving them the opportunity to issue a corrected message.

### **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- i. Note the information contained in the paper; and
- ii. Request the ICAO Secretariat to make the required changes to the ROBEX Handbook to reflect the new and changed bulletins outlined in Attachment A.
- iii. Request the ICAO Secretariat to consider including information in the ROBEX Handbook on the KWBC bulletins containing Pago Pago METARs and TAFs.

-----

## Attachment A – ROBEX Scheme Changes

## SAPS31 NFFN

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
NCRG	RAROTONGA Intl.	Cook Islands
NFFN	NADI/Intl	Fiji
NFNA	NAUSORI/Intl	Fiji
NFTF	FUA'AMOTU INTL.	Tonga
NFTV	VAVA'U	Tonga
NGFU	FUNAFUTI/Intl	Tuvalu
NGTA	TARAWA/Bonriki Intl	Kiribati
NIUE	NIUE Intl	Niue
<del>NLWW</del>	<del>WALLIS HIHIFO</del>	<del>New Caledonia</del>
NSFA	FALEOLO/Intl	Samoa
<del>NSTU</del>	<del>PAGO PAGO Intl, Tutuila I.</del>	<del>US territory</del>
<del>NTAA</del>	<del>TAHITI FAAA</del>	<del>French Polynesia</del>
NVSS	SANTO/Pekoa	Vanuatu
NVVV	PORT VILA/Bauerfield	Vanuatu
<del>NWWW</del>	<del>NOUMEA LA TANTOUTA</del>	<del>New Caledonia</del>
PLCH	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	Kiribati
NFTL	HA'APAI	Tonga

- French territories removed, now in SAPS32 NWWW and SAPS33 NTAA
- Pago Pago now only available in SAUS25 KWBC, US to provide IWXXM METAR
- Ha'apai moved from SAPS32 NFFN to SAPS31 NFFN
- ROC Wellington to generate **LAPS31 NFFN** bulletin

## SAPS32 NWWW (was NFFN)

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
<del>NFTL</del>	<del>HA'APAI</del>	<del>Tonga</del>
NLWW	WALLIS HIHIFO	New Caledonia
NWWW	NOUMEA LA TANTOUTA	New Caledonia

- Ha'apai moved from SAPS32 NFFN to SAPS31 NFFN
- Noumea and Wallis Island moved from SAPS31 NFFN to SAPS32 NWWW
- New Caledonia to generate **LAPS32 NWWW** bulletin, send on GTS to Wellington ROC (via Australia) for further dissemination.

## SAPS33 NTAA (new bulletin)

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
NTAA	TAHITI FAAA	French Polynesia

- Tahiti moved from SAPS31 NFFN to SAPS33 NTAA
- French Polynesia to generate **LAPS33 NTAA** bulletin, send on GTS to Wellington ROC for further dissemination.

## SANG31 YBBN

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
AYPY	PORT MORESBY Intl	PNG
AYWK	WEWAK	PNG
AYVN	VANIMO	PNG

**Agenda Item 4**

22-24/03/21

AYNZ	NADZAB	PNG
AYMH	MOUNT HAGEN	PNG
AYGN	GURNEY	PNG
AYMO	MOMOTE	PNG
ANYN	NAURU I.	Nauru
AGGH	HONIARA (HENDERSON )	Solomon Is

- No changes to bulletin contents
- ROC Wellington to generate **LANG31 YBBN** bulletin

**FTPS31 NFFN**

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
NCRG	RAROTONGA Intl.	Cook Islands
NFFN	NADI/Intl	Fiji
NFTF	FUA'AMOTU INTL.	Tonga
NFTV	VAVA'U	Tonga
NGTA	TARAWA/Bonriki Intl	Kiribati
NIUE	NIUE Intl	Niue
NVSS	SANTO/Pekoa	Vanuatu
NVVV	PORT VILA/Bauerfield	Vanuatu
PLCH	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	Kiribati
<del>NSTU</del>	<del>PAGO PAGO Intl, Tutuila I.</del>	<del>US territory</del>
NFNA	NAUSORI/Intl	Fiji
<del>NTAA</del>	<del>TAHITI FAAA</del>	<del>French Polynesia</del>
<del>NWWW</del>	<del>NOUMEA LA TANTOUTA</del>	<del>New Caledonia</del>
NSFA	FALEOLO/Intl	Samoa
<del>NLWW</del>	<del>WALLIS HIHIFO</del>	<del>New Caledonia</del>

- French territories removed, now in FTPS32 NWWW and FTPS33 NTAA
- Pago Pago now only available in FTPA31 KWBC
- ROC Wellington to generate **LTPS31 NFFN** bulletin

**FTPS32 NWWW – new bulletin**

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
NLWW	WALLIS HIHIFO	New Caledonia
NWWW	NOUMEA LA TANTOUTA	New Caledonia

- Noumea and Wallis moved from FTPS31 NFFN to FTPS32 NWWW
- Meteo-France to generate **LTPS32 NWWW** bulletin

**FTPS33 NTAA – new bulletin**

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
NTAA	TAHITI FAAA	French Polynesia

- Tahiti moved from FTPS31 NFFN to FTPS33 NTAA
- Meteo-France to generate **LTPS33 NTAA** bulletin

**FTNG31 YBBN**

ICAO code	Aerodrome name	State
AYPY	PORT MORESBY Intl	PNG
AYWK	WEWAK	PNG

AYVN	VANIMO	PNG
AYNZ	NADZAB	PNG
AYMH	MOUNT HAGEN	PNG
AYMO	MOMOTE	PNG
ANYN	NAURU I.	Nauru
AGGH	HONIARA (HENDERSON )	Solomon Is

- No changes to bulletin contents
- ROC Wellington to generate **LTNG31 YBBN** bulletin

METNO describing these changes:

TTAA99 NZKL 280001  
METNO APAC OPMET 210225

RMVRPT SAPS31 NFFN NLWW NSTU NTAA NWWW  
ADDRPT SAPS31 NFFN NFTL  
NEWBUL LAPS31 NFFN NCRG NFFN NFNA NFTF NFTV NGFU NGTA NIUE NSFA NVSS  
NWWW PLCH NFTL

DELBUL SAPS32 NFFN NFTL  
NEWBUL SAPS32 NWWW NLWW NWWW  
NEWBUL LAPS32 NWWW NLWW NWWW

NEWBUL SAPS33 NTAA NTAA  
NEWBUL LAPS33 NTAA NTAA

NEWBUL LANG31 YBBN AYPY AYWK AYVN AYNZ AYMH AYGX AYMO ANYN AGGH

RMVRPT FTSP31 NFFN NLWW NSTU NTAA NWWW  
NEWBUL LTPS31 NFFN NCRG NFFN NFTF NFTV NGTA NIUE NVSS NWWW PLCH NFNA  
NSFA

NEWBUL FTSP32 NWWW NWWW NLWW  
NEWBUL LTPS32 NWWW NWWW NLWW

NEWBUL FTSP33 NTAA NTAA  
NEWBUL LTPS33 NTAA NTAA

NEWBUL LTNG31 YBBN AYPY AYWK AYVN AYNZ AYMH AYMO ANYN AGGH

END=