



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization***INFORMATION PAPER****Asia and Pacific (APAC)****Twelfth Meeting of the Meteorological Services****Working Group (MET/S WG/12)**

Online, 30 March to 01 April 2022

Conjoint session of MET/IE WG/20 and MET/S WG/12**Agenda Item 1: Volcanic ash advisory centre (VAAC) backup tests****VAAC DARWIN AND VAAC WELLINGTON BACKUP TEST**

(Presented by Australia/New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This paper describes the outcome of a back-up test completed between VAACs Darwin and Wellington on 1 December 2021. In addition, the paper outlines that Airways NZ supports VAAC Wellington issue their back-up products and looking to resolve this in the near future.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) – Operational Procedures and Contact List (Doc 9766) recommends that Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) conduct back-up tests at least annually.

1.2 VAACs Darwin and Wellington completed a back-up test on 1 December 2021, which ran between 0100 and 0215 UTC. VAAC Wellington require the assistance of Airways NZ as part of their back-up procedure, and so both VAACs agreed to include Airways NZ in this test.

1.3 Airways NZ on-forwarded the test Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA) that VAAC Wellington issued on behalf of VAAC Darwin using their WMO header (FVAUii ADRM DDGGgg). This step is an interim solution until VAAC Wellington can complete the same process with their existing forecasting tools. A solution has been proposed but requires changes to existing software.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 At 0100UTC, VAAC Darwin requested back-up service from VAAC Wellington to test internal processes. The VAAC Wellington forecaster created the back-up VAA notice and then e-mailed a copy of the VAA to Airways NZ duty officer. The Airways NZ team transmitted the VAA using the header FVAU04 ADRM via AFTN and AMHS connections. At 0130 UTC, VAAC Darwin advised VAAC Wellington that they had resumed responsibility of their area.

2.2 At 0145 UTC, VAAC Wellington requested back-up services from VAAC Darwin, leading

to the VAAC Darwin team issuing a back-up VAA notice under FVSP01 NZKL header. At 0215 UTC, VAAC Wellington advised VAAC Darwin that they had resumed responsibility of their area.

2.3 Both VAACs communicated using a dedicated Microsoft Team's channel, which has proved useful during regular operations and has replaced the WhatsApp approach (Attachment A).

2.4 The AFTN address lists for the test were as follows:

2.5 For VAAC Darwin:

YBZZPUXX (VAAC Darwin)						
AGGHYMYX	AGGGZQZX	AGGHYSYX	AYPMZQZX	AYPYANGM	AYPYANGO	AYPYMYX
EDDFDLHD	EGLLSITV	EGZZMASI	EGZZMPAC	EGZZVANW	KLGBPACO	KWBCYMYX
LSZHSWRW	NFFNYPYX	NZAAANZO	NZKLYMYX	PHZHRRZX	RJAAJALO	RJAANCAO
RJTDYMYX	RJTDYPYX	RKSIYPYX	RPHIZQZX	RPLLYMYX	VCBIYMYX	VCBIZQZX
VHHHCPAO	VHHHYMYX	VOMFZQZX	VOMMYMYX	VOMMZQZQ	VTBBYPYX	VTBBZQZX
VTBDYMYX	VTBSYMYX	VVHMZQZX	VVVVYMYX	VVVVZQZX	VYYFZQZX	VYYVYMYX
VYYYYMYX	VYYYZQZX	WAAAYMYX	WAAAZQZX	WAAFZQZX	WADDYMYF	WADDYMYX
WADDYOYX	WBFCZQZX	WBKKYMYX	WBKKZQZQ	WIIFZQZX	WIIYMYX	WMFCZQZX
WMKKMASD	WMKKYMYX	WMKKZQZX	WRRRYNYX	WSJCZQZX	WSSSSIAO	WSSSYMYX
WSSSYZYK	YBBBVOZM	YBBBYPYX	YBBBZRZA	YBBBZRZB	YBBBZRZG	YBBBZRZX
YBRFMYX	YMHFMYX	YMMLJSTX	YMRFYMYX	YMMMZRZA	YMMMZRZB	YMMMZRZG
YMMMZRZX	YMRFYMYX	YPDNZAZX	YPDNZGZA	YPDNZTZX	YPRFYMYX	YPRMYMYX
YPTNZAZX	YPTNZGZA	YPTNZTZX	YSRFYMYX	YSSYQFAM	YSSYWZAX	

2.6 For VAAC Wellington:

NZKLYMYX (VAAC Wellington)							
AGGHYMYX	AGGHYSYX	EGZZMASI	EGZZMMID	EGZZMPAC	KWBCYMYX	NFFNYMYX	NFFNYPYX
NTAAYMYX	NWBBYMYX	NZAAANZM	NZZZBVXX	RJTDYPYX	VTBBYPYX	WSSSYZYX	YBBBVOZM
YBBBYPYX	YBZZMANX	YPDYMYX					

2.7 VAAC Darwin had responses from Bangkok RODB, VAAC Washington, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam MWO.

2.8 VAAC Wellington had responses from VAAC Washington and Fiji MWO.

2.9 VAAC Wellington are putting a fix in place in the next few months which will allow them to issue products fully on behalf of VAAC Darwin and eliminate the need for Airways NZ to disseminate the product. Once this is complete there will be another back-up test to test out the process.

2.10 VAACs are working on a way to notify users, such as SVOs, who do not have AFTN access that back-up is underway.

2.11 The back-up test was conducted with a short time period, but the next back-up test will include early notification to the States that a back-up test will be conducted and their participation in the test is vital to guarantee a fully functioning service.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 Note the information contained in this paper.

Attachment A: MS Teams discussion

VAAC Collab NZ/AUS [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Chat Files Meeting Notes Whiteboard Polls +

Craig Burke 01/12/2021 11:10 am
Hello VAAC Wellington, just confirming today's Back-up TEST of VAAC Darwin by VAAC Wellington at 0100Z and Back-up test of VAAC Wellington by VAAC Darwin at 0145Z.

Nicole Ranger (External) 01/12/2021 11:11 am 👍 1
Confirmed VAAC Darwin. Standing by 😊

Craig Burke 01/12/2021 11:13 am 👍 1
Excellent. Thanks Nicole. We'll be liaising on this Teams channel (VAAC Collab NZ/AUS) for the tests today.

John Turnbull 01/12/2021 11:58 am
Hi VAAC Wellington. Could you please commence back-up services for VAAC Darwin. Kind regards, VAAC Darwin.

Nicole Ranger (External) 01/12/2021 11:59 am
Assume you mean TEST 😊 Can you please confirm what bulletin header to use?