

International Civil Aviation Organization**WORKING PAPER****ICAO****Asia and Pacific (APAC)
Twenty-first Meeting of the Meteorological Information
Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/21)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 27 to 29 March 2023

Agenda Item 6: Guidance material related to meteorological information exchange**UPDATE OF AERODROME FORECAST ISSUANCE AND VALIDITY (30TAF3)**

(Presented by New Zealand)

SUMMARY

In August 2022, New Zealand increased the validity of the Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) from 24-hours to 30-hours for its three international aerodromes (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch) included in the ICAO Air Navigation Pan Vol II Table MET II-2 - *Aerodrome Meteorological Offices*. This change was followed by increasing the update frequency of these TAFs from six-hours to three-hours in December 2022, when the Trend forecast was simultaneously discontinued.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Meteorological Service of New Zealand increased the validity of the TAF for Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch International Aerodromes from 24-hours to 30-hours in August 2022.

1.2 Separately, a review of utility of the Trend forecast service was actioned to investigate feasible alternative options that would resolve user confusion for instances when the TAF and Trend were not identical and to improve the workflow of the aviation meteorologists, reducing likelihood of task distraction every 30 minutes.

1.3 After consultation with the New Zealand aviation industry, it was decided the Trend service would be replaced with a TAF routinely issued every three hours – locally called 30TAF3 – for Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch International Aerodromes. 30TAF3 was implemented in December 2022.

1.4 A proposed update to the ICAO Air Navigation Pan Vol II Table MET II-2 - *Aerodrome Meteorological Offices* was submitted to the ICAO APAC Office in September 2022, to reflect the increased TAF validity period and the discontinuation of the Trend.

2. DISCUSSION

30TAF3 in Operations

2.1 The 30TAF3 service exceeds the Annex 3, Section 6.2.6 recommendation for a routine TAF valid for between 12 to 30 hours to be issued every 6 hours. 30TAF3 is issued routinely every three hours.

2.2 For the 30TAF3 service, a 30-hour TAF is routinely issued at the synoptic hours (i.e. 00/06/12/18Z) and a 27-hour TAF is routinely issued at the intermediate synoptic hours (i.e. 03/09/15/21Z).

2.3 Aviation meteorologists monitor the first three hours of 30TAF3 closely and proactively issue amendments as subject to the amendment criteria in Annex 3, Appendix 5, providing users with the same accuracy and responsiveness as the Trend, which was valid for 2 hours from the time of the METAR to which it was appended.

2.4 The practice of issuing a TAF every 3 hours for international aerodromes is consistent with the current practices of the USA, Canada, and Australia.

Update to ROBEX Handbook

2.5 There is no current way to easily indicate within the ROBEX Handbook that a TAF is updated 3-hourly, with the validity period alternating between 27hr and 30hr per issue.

2.6 A suggested reformat of Table B: *Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins* is provided in Appendix A to this paper, allowing clearer communication of TAF availability and validity period. In the proposed format, information about the bulletin is separated from information about the TAFs contained within.

2.7 Further, the ROBEX Handbook Table B *Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins*, should be updated to include the new validity period and frequency of issue of the NZAA, NZWN and NZCH TAFs.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) discuss the information in this paper, as appropriate;
- b) update ROBEX Handbook Table B *Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins* to reflect the 30hr TAF validity for NZAA, NZWN, and NZCH; and
- c) formulate an action to update the format of ROBEX Handbook Table B *Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins*, as presented in Appendix A to this paper.

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APPENDIX A to WP12

APPENDIX A

Current Table Format:

Table B : Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins									
1 ROC		2 TAF Bulletin						3 Dissemination	
Name	CCCC		CCCC	Aerodrome	Filing time	Start of validity	TAF validity	RODB/ROC	AFTN address
Wellington	NZKL	FTNZ31	NZWN NZAA NZCH	WELLINGTON Intl AUCKLAND Intl CHRISTCHURCH Intl	0535 1135 1735 2335	0600 1200 1800 0000	24 24 24 24	BANGKOK BRISBANE NADI SINGAPORE TOKYO Beijing Hong Kong	VTBBYPYX YBBBYPYX NFFNYPYX WSZZYPYX RJTDYPYX ZBBBYPYX VHZZYPYX

Proposed Table Format:

Table B : Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins										
1 ROC		2 TAF Bulletin		3 TAF Information					3 Dissemination	
Name	CCCC	Bulletin header	Filing time	Start of validity	CCCC	Aerodrome	TAF validity	RODB/ROC	AFTN address	
Wellington	NZKL	FTNZ31	0235 0535 0835 1135 1435 1735 2035 2335	0300 0600 0900 1200 1500 1800 2100 0000	NZWN NZAA NZCH	WELLINGTON AUCKLAND CHRISTCHURCH	Intl Intl Intl	30* 30* 30*	BANGKOK BRISBANE NADI SINGAPORE TOKYO Beijing Hong Kong	VTBBYPYX YBBBYPYX NFFNYPYX WSZZYPYX RJTDYPYX ZBBBYPYX VHZZYPYX
							* For validities starting at 0300, 0900, 1500 and 2100, all TAFs will have a validity 3 hours shorted than indicated.			