



ICAO

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WORKING PAPER / FILMSY

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

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## Agenda Item 6: Guidance material related to meteorological information exchange

### METNO GUIDANCE IN ROBEX HANDBOOK

(Presented by Hong Kong, China and Australia)

#### SUMMARY

This paper provides the description of issues concerning guidance on METNO identified in the ROBEX Handbook and the discussions related to METNO in the ICAO Meteorological Panel Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange (WG-MIE).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 APAC ROBEX Handbook, Appendix E was updated with the addition of General rules in METNO Procedure when the ROBEX handbook was updated from 13th to 14th edition which was published in 2022. Some inconsistencies or ambiguities were identified between the METNO procedures mentioned in *Section 13.1 - Changes to OPMET Bulletin Procedures* and *Appendix E Section 1 – METNO Procedures – General rules*.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The following two paragraphs from 14th edition of ROBEX Handbook contains description of METNO procedures.

### 13.1. Changes to OPMET Bulletin Procedures

13.1.3. Notification via AFTN/AMHS should be done by means of a METNO message, which is to be sent by the **originating ROC to all other ROCs and to the respective IROGs** in the other ICAO regions **two weeks** prior to the implementation date. The format of the METNO message is given in *Appendix E*.

### Appendix E

#### 1. METNO Procedure – General rules

1.5. At 21 days after the preceding (**7 days before** the upcoming) AIRAC date, the **FP** shall announce the list of accepted amendments **to the ICAO Regional Office, the NOCs** by means of a standard formatted METNO message for routine meteorological information sent via Aeronautical Fixed Service (**AFS - SADIS and WIFS by their regional associated ROC**).

2.2 The following inconsistencies or ambiguities were identified and should be clarified or resolved:

- Who should issue METNO messages? Should "originating ROC" and "Focal Point (FP)" be aligned?
- When should the MENTO messages be issued? "two weeks prior to the implementation date", or "7 days before the upcoming AIRAC date"?
- To where the METNO messages to be sent? "to all other ROCs and to the respective IROGs", or "to the ICAO Regional Office, the NOCs"?
- What is the meaning of "AFS - SADIS and WIFS by their regional associated ROC" in Appendix E, para. 1.5? Does "their regional associated ROC" refer to "originating ROC"?
- Would it be better if there is a reminder in Appendix E for ROC to inform SADIS and WIFS with regard to the issued METNO?
- Example of a METNO message is no longer available in Appendix E as it was removed when ROBEX Handbook was updated from 13th to 14th edition. Would it be valuable to add an example of METNO message back in Appendix E as a useful reference for ROCs?  
*(An example of METNO message was available on page E-1 to E-2 of Appendix E in the 13th Edition of ROBEX Handbook and is attached in APPENDIX for easy reference.)*

2.3 The ICAO Meteorological Panel Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange (WG-MIE) has activities to align METNO globally and to include this information with the IWXXM Guidelines. There is a push to adopt the Europe procedure globally. The latest European METNO Procedure is contained in the following resource:

[https://www.icao.int/EURNAT/EUR\\_and\\_NAT\\_Documents/EUR\\_Documents/EUR\\_Documents/018\\_-\\_OPMET\\_Handbook/EUR\\_Doc\\_18\\_\(EN\)\\_-Edition\\_12,\\_Amd\\_0\\_\(clean\).pdf](https://www.icao.int/EURNAT/EUR_and_NAT_Documents/EUR_Documents/EUR_Documents/018_-_OPMET_Handbook/EUR_Doc_18_(EN)_-Edition_12,_Amd_0_(clean).pdf)

2.4 The European METNO procedures also includes procedures for changes (add or remove) to which aerodromes are included in existing OPMET bulletins via the "ADDRPT" and "REMRPT" procedures.

Message Identifier (METNO)+ Product Description (EUR OPMET)+ AIRAC Date (YYMMDD)	METNO EUR OPMET YYMMDD
- New Bulletin: <b>NEWBUL TTAaii CCCC Locind(s)</b> , or <b>NEWBUL TTAaii CCCC FIR/UIR</b> for Non-Routine bulletin where applicable	NEWBUL FCMJ31 LWSK LWSK LWOH NEWBUL WVCZ31 LKPR LKAA
- Delete Bulletin: <b>DELBUL TTAaii CCCC</b> , or <b>DELBUL TTAaii CCCC FIR/UIR</b> for Non-Routine bulletin where applicable	DELBUL FTOS31 LOWM DELBUL WSRA31 ALAK UATT
- Add Report to existing bulletin: <b>ADDRPT TTAaii CCCC Locind(s)</b>	ADDRPT FCTU33 LTAA LTAJ LTCP LTCI LTFH
- Remove Report from existing bulletin: <b>RMVRPT TTAaii CCCC Locind(s)</b>	RMVRPT FCSN31 ESWI ESOW ESSA ESSB ESSP ESSV
End of METNO	END

2.5 The MET/IE WG should also consider the merit of this additional capability.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this paper;
- b) propose changes to the two paragraphs on METNO procedures under 2.1; and
- c) discuss appropriate follow-up actions to resolve the issues presented in 2.2.

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# APPENDIX

*ROBEX Handbook*

## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



## ASIA PACIFIC REGION ROBEX HANDBOOK

**Thirteenth Edition — March 2019**

**Prepared by the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office  
and Published under the Authority of the Secretary General**

**APPENDIX E - Format of METNO bulletin for APAC ROBEX Bulletins**

**METNO Message Format (Example)**

Priority	GG
Addressees of ROCs and RODBs	VTBBYPYX ZBBBYPYX YBBNYPYX VCCCYPYX VIDPYPYX VHZZYPYX RKSIIYPYX WIZZYPYX VECCYPYX OPZZYPYX WMZZYPYR VABBYPYX NFFNYPYX RJTDYPYX NZZZYPYX WSZZYPYM
Origin	ddhhmm WSSSYPYX
Abbreviated header	TTAA99 CCCC YYGGgg  Example: NOSR99 WSSS 180200
Message identifier, region description, date of implementation (year, month, date):	METNO APAC OPMET YYMMDD
New Bulletin ( <b>NEWBUL</b> )	NEWBUL (description of new bulletin and content)
Delete Bulletin ( <b>DELBUL</b> )	DELBUL (description of bulletin to be deleted and content)
Add Report to existing bulletin ( <b>ADDRPT</b> )	ADDRPT (description of added aerodromes to existing bulletin)
Remove Report from existing bulletin ( <b>RMVRPT</b> ) + Bulletin/Report key (TTAAii CCCC Station)(1)	RMVRPT (description of aerodromes to be deleted from existing bulletin)
End of METNO	END=

(1) The METNO Bulletin/Report reference only contains the Bulletin/Report index TTAAii CCCC<sub>1</sub> CCCC<sub>2</sub> where:

- TTAAii is the abbreviated header
- CCCC<sub>1</sub> the compiling centre
- CCCC<sub>2</sub> the Report | FIR location indicator.

The index refers to the modified record in the OPMET catalogue published on the FTP-server(s). The dates on the relevant records shall contain the AIRAC date in the line after the abbreviated header.

Example of a METNO message in AFTN format:

**GG**

NOSR99 WSSS 180200

METNO APAC OPMET 061115

NEWBUL FTSR33 WSSS WBSB WBGB WBGG WBGR WBGS  
WBKK WBKL WBKS WBKW

RMVRPT FTSR31 WSSS WMKK WMSA WMKP WMKJ

ADDRPT FTSR31 WSSS WAAA WABB WIMM

RMVRPT FTSR32 WSSS WBSB WBKK WBGG WIMM

ADDRPT FTSR32 WSSS WMKJ WMKK WMKL WMKM WMKP WMSA

**END=**