

International Civil Aviation Organization**ICAO****WORKING PAPER****Asia and Pacific (APAC)
Thirteenth Meeting of the Meteorological Services
Working Group (MET/S WG/13)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 29 to 31 March 2023

Agenda Item 6: Guidance and education related to the provision of meteorological services**UPDATES TO REGIONAL SIGMET GUIDE**

(Presented by Australia on behalf of ad hoc group)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the future updates required to the Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide and changes in membership to the ad hoc group.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide (SIGMET Guide) is intended to provide States in the region with guidance on the standardization and harmonization of procedures and formats related to SIGMET information. The guidance in the SIGMET Guide is in compliance with the SIGMET related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in the ICAO Annex 3 – Meteorological Services for International Air Navigation, the Asia/Pacific Regional Air Navigation Plan (eANP) and the Manual of Aeronautical Meteorological Practices (Doc 8896).

1.2 This paper presents the future updates required to the Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide and changes in membership to the ad hoc group.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The SIGMET Guide is maintained, reviewed, and updated regularly to align with the relevant SIGMET related ICAO SARPs and the eANP.

2.2 The regular review and update of the SIGMET Guide is an essential function carried out under the auspices of MET SG and its working groups, primarily the Meteorological Services Working Group (MET/S WG).

2.3 The tenth edition of the SIGMET Guide was endorsed at the MET SG/26 meeting. Refer Decision MET SG/26/01 – Updates to Regional SIGMET Guide:

Decision MET SG/26/01 – Updates to Regional SIGMET Guide	
What: That, the MET SG approves the updates to the SIGMET Guide as presented in Appendix A of WP/09 for use by States and publishing on the ICAO APAC Office website.	Expected impact: <input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-Regional <input type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ops/Technical
Why: to make the latest updates to the SIGMET Guide available for use by the States	Follow-up: <input type="checkbox"/> Required from States
When: Now	Status: Adopted by MET SG
Who: <input type="checkbox"/> Sub Groups <input type="checkbox"/> RASG-APAC <input type="checkbox"/> APAC States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO APAC RO <input type="checkbox"/> ICAO HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

2.4 However, the MET/SG meeting was informed that the location indicator for FIR Port Moresby was incorrect and should be updated before publishing the tenth edition of the SIGMET Guide.

Refer MET/SG action 26/05.

Action 26/05

Location indicator for FIR Port Moresby in the SIGMET Guide:

Include the correct location indicator for FIR Port Moresby (as previously identified in Action No. 25/07) in the approved ICAO APAC Regional SIGMET Guide, Tenth Edition.

[Ref: Report of MET SG/26, para. 4.5.]

2.5 To address MET SG action 26/05, *Appendix D – WMO Headings (WMO AHL) for SIGMET Bulletins Used by Asia/Pacific Meteorological Watch Offices*, has been updated to change the location indicator for FIR Port Moresby to AYPM, see below, to align with ICAO Doc 7910/186 Location Indicators (December 2022).

PAPUA NEW GUINEA PORT MORESBY/Intl	AYPY	WSNG20	LSNG20	WCNG20	LYNG20	WWNG20	LVNG20	AYPM AYPY	
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2.6 The tenth edition of the ICAO APAC Regional SIGMET Guide will be published soon to the ICAO APAC Office website.

Future changes to the APAC SIGMET Guide

2.7 A number of other changes are being discussed by the APAC SIGMET Guide ad hoc group. These changes are not included in the tenth update of the SIGMET Guide but are planned for the next update of the document. The future updates include:

- i. **Add VAAC Darwin/VAAC Wellington backup procedures:**

Updates to the VAAC backup procedures to include VAAC Darwin/VAAC Washington backup arrangements, as requested during the MET/S WG 12 and MET/IE WG 20 meeting.

ii. Review of VAAC backup procedures:

VAAC Darwin, VAAC Tokyo and VAAC Wellington have agreed to review the VAAC backup procedures in the SIGMET Guide, and provide an update for the next edition.

iii. Guidance on SIGMET for volcanic ash crossing FIR boundaries:

A proposal was presented to MET/ S WG 11 (refer to [MET/S WG 11 WP/07](#)). The meeting did not concur on the adoption of the proposed guidance material and requested the ad hoc group to continue to develop the proposal taking into consideration the need for input from the end user community and consider global coordination with ICAO regions. The ad hoc group has been discussing the guidance presented in the EUR SIGMET guide and will look at different options before proposing updated guidance for inclusion in the SIGMET Guide.

iv. Alignment of APAC and EUR SIGMET Guides:

Work has continued on the alignment the APAC and EUR Regional SIGMET Guides.

Changes to membership of ad hoc group

2.8 The MET/S WG Regional SIGMET Guide ad hoc group has the following members:

- Australia (rapporteur)
- Hong Kong, China
- Japan
- Singapore

2.9 The current Australian members for MET/S WG, Ms Elizabeth Heba and Mr Domenic Panuccio have stood down as members. Mr David House will be the new Australian member for MET/S WG.

2.10 With the change of members for Australia, Australia has decided to step down as rapporteur of the Regional SIGMET Guide ad hoc group, but wishes to remain a member of the ad hoc group.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) Seek nominations for the role of rapporteur of the Regional SIGMET Guide ad hoc group and nominations for any additional members of the group.
