



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization***INFORMATION PAPER****Asia and Pacific (APAC)****Twenty-second Meeting of the Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/22)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 18 to 21 March 2024

**Agenda Item 2: Review of follow-up action from previous meetings****STATUS OF ANNEX 3 AMENDMENT PROPOSALS ARISING FROM THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY PANEL (METP/5) ON MIE-RELATED ISSUES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

The paper provides a brief overview of the current status of the amendment proposals to ICAO Annex 3 — Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, with a specific focus on matters related to meteorological information exchange.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The fifth meeting of the Meteorology Panel (METP/5) was held virtually from 7 to 9, 11, 14, 16 and 18 June 2021. The meeting was attended by one hundred and six members, observers and advisers from seventeen States and six international organizations. The meeting developed recommendations for the restructured Annex 3 — Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation and the new Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Meteorology (PANS-MET, Doc 10157), and additional amendment proposals relating to space weather information services, quantitative volcanic ash information, the international airways volcano watch (IAVW), the ICAO meteorological information exchange model (IWXXM), OPMET information, the world area forecast system (WAFS), and improved definition of meteorological authority and the introduction of a new definition of meteorological service provider.

1.2 The meeting also developed consequential amendments to Annex 6 — Operation of Aircraft, Part I — International Commercial Air Transport — Aeroplanes, Part II — International General Aviation — Aeroplanes and Part III — International Operations — Helicopters, Annex 10 — Aeronautical Telecommunications, Volume II — Communication Procedures including those with PANS status, Annex 11 — Air Traffic Services, Annex 15 — Aeronautical Information Services, Procedures for Air Navigation Services — ICAO Abbreviations and Codes (PANS-ABC, Doc 8400), Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Aeronautical Information Management (PANS-AIM, Doc 10066) and Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM, Doc 4444).

1.3 The Air Navigation Commission (ANC), at its 221st Session held on 24 November 2022, considered proposals developed by the METP/5. The proposed amendments were circulated on 26 January 2023, via the State letter (AN 10/1-23/1 refers) for consultation by the Contracting States and International Organizations.

1.4 The Secretariat previously presented the above (AN 10/1-23/1) proposed amendments to Annex 3 by METP/5, together with proposed amendments to Annex 3 arising from the second meeting of the ICAO Information Management Panel (IMP/2) as disseminated in the ICAO State letter, Ref.: AN 2/36-23/6 dated 13 February 2023, in WP/16 to MET/IE WG/21 (27 to 29 March 2023).

1.5 The brief overview of the current status of the amendment proposals arising from the METP/5 is discussed in Section 2, with a specific focus on the matters related to the international exchange of meteorological information.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The METP/5 meeting reviewed and agreed on the proposed amendments pertaining to IWXXM, including the removal of the term “GML”, a few changes in METAR/SPECI to remove constraints related to the number of RVR and to include tenths of temperature and dew point, the inclusion of issuance of VONA in IWXXM format, and the clarification of the limitation of the number of coordinates in IWXXM and the Traditional Alpha-numeric Codes (TAC).

2.2 It was noted that removing such format-oriented constraints in IWXXM did not form a new requirement for meteorological information. It was intended to allow States to provide additional information in the IWXXM form, if applicable. Further, the Panel noted that its Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange (WG-MIE) had reached a consensus that the constraints of current IWXXM schemas were designed to align with current TAC products and it would hinder the adoption of IWXXM by stakeholders and limit its future use.

2.3 During the consultation phase (State letter AN 10/1-23/1 refers) from 26 January until 26 July 2023, a total of 76 replies were received. All the State and International Organization comments were thoroughly considered by the Secretariat for the final review by the ANC.

2.4 The ANC’s final review took place at its 224th Session on 2 November 2023 (AN-WP/9688 refers). The ANC shared several concerns about Initial Proposal 6, concerning the clarification of the term “meteorological authority” and the associated introduction of the term “meteorological service provider”, and agreed that the amendment proposal needed to be further refined and reviewed at the following Session in 2024.

2.5 According to the deferral, the applicability date of the amendment proposal arising from the METP/5, which was originally expected in November 2024, is most likely to be in November 2025.

2.6 In parallel, the proposed amendment to Annex 3 arising from IMP/2 concerning the inclusion of a generic recommended practice for the supply of meteorological information via SWIM-enabled information services was endorsed by the ANC. At the 231<sup>st</sup> Session of the ICAO Council, the amendment proposal was approved as the 81<sup>st</sup> amendment to ICAO Annex 3 — Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, which will become applicable on 28 November 2024.

2.7 As a result, the expected applicability dates of the future amendments to Annex 3 are below.

- **Amendment 81** – 28 November 2024 (source: IMP/2): the inclusion of a new Recommended Practice for the provision of meteorological information via SWIM-enabled information service (see Appendix A to this paper).
- **Amendment 82** – November 2025<sup>1</sup>: proposals arising from METP/5.

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

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) Discuss and consider appropriate actions to support the APAC States' implementation of the proposed amendments of Annex 3.

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<sup>1</sup> *Note: the expected applicability date of the amendment 82 are subject to reviews by the ANC in its future Sessions.*

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Proposed amendments to Annex 3 (the 81<sup>st</sup> amendment)**

(Extracted from the draft report to the Council (C-WP/15542 Appendix C))

#### **CHAPTER 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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##### **2.2 Supply, use, quality management and interpretation of meteorological information**

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**2.2.10 Recommendation.**— *Contracting States should ensure that the meteorological information supplied to the users listed in 2.1.2 is provided through information services.*

*Note 1.*— *In the context of system-wide information management (SWIM), the notion of information service addresses machine-to-machine interaction in a service-oriented architecture.*

*Note 2.*— *Procedures on information services are contained in the Procedures for Air Navigation Services — Information Management (PANS-IM, Doc 10199).*

*Note 3.*— *Guidance material on information services can be found in the Manual on System-wide Information Management Implementation (Doc 10203).*

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