International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING 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 3: Quality control, monitoring and management of meteorological information exchange

DEFICIENCIES RELATED TO NON-PROVISION OF QUALITY METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION IN IWXXM FORM

(Presented by Ad Hoc Group on Deficiencies)

SUMMARY

This paper describes a methodology for identifying potential deficiencies in the provision of meteorological information in IWXXM form.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 34th Meeting of the Asia and Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/34) recommended that the Meteorology Sub-group (MET SG) in collaboration with the ICAO APAC Office, follow the guidance in the APANPIRG Procedural Handbook, *Uniform Methodology for the Identification, Assessment and Reporting of Air Navigation Deficiencies*, to assess deficiencies in the regional implementation of Annex 3 SARPs and, depending on the outcomes, formulate appropriate recommendations for APANPIRG to consider on additions to the list of air navigation deficiencies, including deficiencies in the implementation of IWXXM.

1.2 The recommendation follows the Fifth Meeting of the European Region Aviation System Planning Group (EASPG/5), which had agreed to a Draft Conclusion for the Meteorology Group (METG) of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG) to consider adding those States that have not implemented IWXXM to the EANPG air navigation deficiencies list.

1.3 Provision of meteorological information in IWXXM form became an ICAO Annex 3 Standard in November 2020. The IWXXM format allows significantly richer data to be efficiently shared. This will contribute to greater efficiency and safety in air traffic both for Aircraft Operators (AOs) and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 For the MET SG to consider recommending deficiencies in the provision of IWXXM form meteorological information, the identification criteria should be consistent with the (but not limited to)

existing identification criteria for Traditional Alphanumeric Code (TAC) meteorological information, as outlined in the MET Deficiency Identification Guide on the ICAO APAC eDocuments website. The following identification criteria are proposed for assessing ICAO compliant IWXXM provision:

- Annual ICAO SIGMET test
  - IWXXM form test messages must be issued by participating tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisory centres, and meteorological watch offices.
  - IWXXM form messages must be received, via an appropriate dissemination method, within 5 minutes of issuance.
  - IWXXM form messages must pass IWXXM validation.
  - IWXXM information should be issued in the IWXXM version that is compliant with the current applicable amendment to Annex 3.

- APAC RODB Annual OPMET Monitoring
  - IWXXM form METAR/SPECI or TAF received, via an appropriate dissemination method, by RODBs in the annual OPMET monitoring process with availability/regularity/compliance score of more than 50%.
  - IWXXM form messages must pass IWXXM validation.
  - IWXXM information should be issued in the IWXXM version that is compliant with the current applicable amendment to Annex 3.

2.2 A deficiency will not be automatically proposed if one or more of the criteria suggested in paragraph 2.1 are not met – other considerations will be taken into account in coordination with the State, such as the existence of plans to address any issues.

2.3 While there is currently no requirement for IWXXM to be generated at source (considered best practice), IWXXM converted from TAC is better than no IWXXM. However, in the future, IWXXM products will contain information that is not present in the TAC form, so it will not be possible to generate these IWXXM products from TAC. Further, it is *anticipated* that the requirement for meteorological information in TAC form will not be a Standard in Annex 3 from November 2030, meaning the capability for IWXXM to be generated at source might be a future requirement.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) note the information contained in this paper;

b) discuss and review the proposed identification criteria in section 2.1;

c) include agreed identification criteria in the MET Deficiency Identification Guide;

d) invite the RODBs to report on IWXXM information receipt, as outlined in 2.1, as part of the annual ICAO SIGMET test and RODB annual OPMET monitoring tasks; and

e) discuss any other IWXXM provision issues that should be considered when proposing a deficiency.

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