



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization***WORKING PAPER (WP/10)****ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC)****Twenty-third Meeting of the Meteorological Information
Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/23)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 25 to 28 March 2025

Agenda Item 4: Regional guidance material**ROBEX HANDBOOK UPDATES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the Eighteenth Edition (March 2025) of the ICAO APAC ROBEX Handbook, incorporating updates endorsed by MET/IE WG/23. These include enhancements for VONA dissemination, revised bulletin structures, and updated focal point information. The paper invites the Meeting to review the latest edition and consider further updates to ensure continued alignment with ICAO provisions and regional operational needs.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Asia/Pacific (APAC) Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange (ROBEX) scheme facilitates the structured exchange of meteorological information (OPMET bulletins) within the APAC region and between ICAO regions¹. This exchange supports aviation safety and efficiency by ensuring the timely and standardised dissemination of critical weather data.

1.2 The APAC ROBEX Handbook serves as a key reference for States and ROBEX centres, outlining operational procedures, responsibilities, and formatting standards for OPMET bulletins. Regular updates to the Handbook are essential to reflect evolving ICAO provisions and regional practices.

1.3 This paper introduces the Eighteenth Edition of the ROBEX Handbook (March 2025), summarises recent updates endorsed by the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/23), and invites the Meeting to consider further revisions as needed.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 At MET/IE WG/23 (Bangkok, 25–28 March 2025), several updates were endorsed for inclusion in the ROBEX Handbook [ref: ACTION 23-11 and ACTION 23-12]:

¹ The ROBEX scheme includes inter-regional OPMET exchange with the ICAO AFI, EUR, MID, NAM and SAM regions.

VONA Dissemination via AFS:

2.1.1 An ad hoc group (Australia, Japan, New Zealand) proposed updates to support Amendment 82 to Annex 3, including guidance on bulletin headers ('ii') and applicability dates. These updates clarify the use of 'ii' and 'CCCC' identifiers, especially for State Volcano Observatories (SVOs) lacking AFS access.

Alignment with Global Practices:

2.1.2 The proposed VONA header structure aligns with discussions at METP WG-MIE/12 and agreements within the ICAO EUR Region, ensuring consistency across regions.

Focal Point Updates:

2.1.3 States provided updated contact details for ROBEX Handbook focal points. MET/IE WG/23 requested the Secretariat to incorporate these into the Eighteenth Edition.

Bulletin Reorganisation by Hong Kong, China:

2.1.4 Updates include the addition of three aerodromes to METAR/SPECI and TAF bulletins effective 17 April 2025:

- RPMR (SOUTH COTABATO/Tambler Gen. Santos International, Philippines)
- RPVK (AKLAN/Kalibo International, Philippines)
- RCQC (PENGHU, Taipei FIR)

2.1.5 TAF bulletins were reorganised into three series² according to issuance frequency and validity period, and corresponding adjustments were made to METAR bulletins³, to streamline regional OPMET exchange.

2.2 A copy of the updated ROBEX Handbook with changes tracked is provided in **Appendix A**. In addition, a clean copy of the updated ROBEX Handbook is provided in **Appendix B**.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the updates included in the ROBEX Handbook, Eighteenth Edition (March 2025);
- b) Review the Handbook and provide feedback or propose further updates;
- c) Confirm the inclusion of updated focal point information; and
- d) Support continued alignment of ROBEX procedures with ICAO provisions and regional operational needs.

² FT(LT)HK31, FT(LT)HK32, and FT(LT)HK33

³ SA(LA)HK31, SA(LA)HK32, and SA(LA)HK33