

International Civil Aviation Organization

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WORKING PAPER (WP/29)

ICAO ASIA AND PACIFIC (APAC)
THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY
SUB-GROUP (MET SG/30)

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 - 24 July 2026

Agenda Item 4: Regional Guidance Material**INCONSISTENCIES IN TC SIGMET FUTURE POSITION IN PANS-MET**

(Presented by New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This paper highlights inconsistencies in PANS-MET regarding how future tropical cyclone positions should be described in SIGMET messages. The ad hoc group on the SIGMET Guide is requested to consider these issues and work with the Europe region SIGMET Guide group to provide guidance in the Regional SIGMET Guide.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The introduction of Amendment 82 to Annex 3 *Meteorological Services for International Air Navigation* and associated Procedures for Air Navigation – Meteorology (PANS-MET, Doc 10157) introduced a change to the tropical cyclone (TC) SIGMET example.

1.2 These changes have caused some confusion as to how to describe the forecast position of a tropical cyclone, within the TC SIGMET formats.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The PANS-MET Example A7-8 *SIGMET information for tropical cyclone* was updated from the previous example contained in Amendment 81 to Annex 3. The TC SIGMET example now includes a movement *as well* as a forecast TC position (red text is new content).

YUCC SIGMET 3 VALID 251600/252200 YUDO –
YUCC AMSWELL FIR TC GLORIA PSN N2706 W07306 CB OBS AT 1600Z WI 250NM OF TC CENTRE
TOP FL500 **MOV W 10KT** NC FCST AT 2200Z TC CENTRE PSN N2740 W07345

2.2 This use of movement and forecast TC position is inconsistent with Note 26 to Table A7-5 *Template for SIGMET and AIRMET information*:

26. The elements “forecast time” and “forecast position” are not to be used in conjunction with the element “movement or expected movement”

2.3 The movement included in the TC SIGMET refers solely to the movement of the TC centre, not the associated CB clouds¹.

¹ Refer Note 3 to section 3.5.3.8 *Movement*, APAC Regional SIGMET Guide.

2.4 Including both movement and forecast position in a TC SIGMET may cause confusion, as it could infer a different T+6hr forecast position for the CB area than what is intended by the Meteorological Watch Office (MWO).

2.5 To address this issue and to be very clear in intent of what is being communicated to users, MWOs could issue two SIGMETs – one solely for the TC and another separate WS SIGMET for the associated CB clouds. This would be of value when the CB area moves in a different way to the TC centre.

2.6 The TC SIGMET examples contained within the APAC Regional SIGMET Guide are consistent with Note 26 to Table A7-5, with examples using both movement *or* forecast position for the TC centre, but all with CB areas. There may be use including a further example, as described in para 2.5.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) consider tasking the ad hoc group on the Regional SIGMET Guide to consider the benefits and limitations of
 - using tropical cyclone movement or forecast position in a TC SIGMET
 - issuing a separate TS SIGMET to describe the CBs associated with a tropical cycloneand then include further guidance to assist MWOs on issuing TC SIGMETs, in coordination with the EUR SIGMET Guide group, as appropriate; and
- c) support the issue of the inconsistent PANS-MET TC SIGMET example being raised through the Meteorology Panel (by the New Zealand MET Panel member), for further consideration.
