

International Civil Aviation Organization

FLIMSY (FL/02)



ICAO

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 - 24 July 2026

Agenda Item 8: Research, Development and Other Initiatives**PROVISION OF THREE-HOURLY TAF FOR THREE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN VIET NAM**

(Presented by Viet Nam)

SUMMARY

Viet Nam has increased the frequency of issuing TAF for the three major international airports (VVNB, VVDN and VVTS) from once every six hours to once every three hours since June 2026. This paper informs the meeting of the planning and implementation feedback regarding the service enhancement.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Aviation Meteorological Center (AMC) of the Vietnam Air Traffic Cooperation (VATM) once issued routine TAF valid for 24 hours and 30 hours at six-hourly intervals for all international airports in Viet Nam, with no short-validity TAFs provided. The TAF valid for 24 hours and 30 hours was issued at main synoptic hours, i.e., 00Z, 06Z, 12Z and 18Z.

1.2 Thereafter, suggestions to increase the frequency of TAF issuance to once every three hours were raised by CAAV with a view to enhancing MET services, further boosting the capacity of these airports that already had a high traffic density, as well as better catering for flight planning.

1.3 Subsequently, an internal trial run was conducted in 2026 to evaluate the effectiveness of three-hourly TAF for aviation users and to assess the associated operational impacts. Although the three-hourly TAF would be beneficial to users (especially for the first few hours of the TAF validity period), opportunities and operational challenges had to be balanced, particularly regarding the additional workload imposed on aviation forecasters. Careful consideration was given to ensure that the increased frequency of issuance would not divert forecasters' attention from continuous weather watch, especially during inclement weather conditions.

1.4 The trial provision of three-hourly TAFs for three major international airports (VVNB, VVDN, and VVTS) has been implemented since June 2026. The three-hourly TAF exceeds the requirements stipulated in ICAO Annex 3 Section 6.2.1.6 Recommendation.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Provision of three-hourly TAF is merely one of the steps in enhancing aviation weather services for some international airports. It matches the current practices in other countries, such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland and the USA.

2.2 It is vital to note that the implementation of the three-hourly TAF does not replace the existing requirement for TREND forecasts or TAF amendments (TAF AMD). The three-hourly TAF serves as an enhanced routine scheduled product, whereas TREND forecasts continue to provide short-term landing predictions appended to METAR/SPECI, and TAF AMDs remain the primary mechanism for mitigating unforecasted, sudden weather changes between the scheduled issuance times.

2.3 Furthermore, Viet Nam is continuously studying the practical benefits of the three-hourly TAF for other MET service users. In parallel, an ongoing assessment is being conducted to evaluate the correlation between the increased frequency of TAF issuance and the corresponding requirement for additional forecasting personnel, ensuring that the high quality and accuracy of these meteorological products are strictly maintained.

2.4 Vietnam has submitted a proposed update to the ICAO APAC Office regarding the ICAO Air Navigation Plan Vol II, Table MET II-2 (Aerodrome Meteorological Offices) and ROBEX Handbook Appendix B Table B (FT TAF) to reflect the increased TAF validity period. At the same time, the METNO procedure will be implemented as regulated.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper.

MET SG/30
Appendix A to FL/02

APPENDIX A

Updates to Appendix B to the ROBEX Handbook
Appendix B, Table B: FT TAF

Table B: Collection and Dissemination of TAF (FT) Bulletins									
1 ROC		2 TAF Bulletin						3 Dissemination	
Name	CCCC	BUL No.	CCCC	Aerodrome	Filing time	Start of validity	TAF validity	RODB/ROC	AFTN address
ASIA/PAC REGION									
Bangkok	VTBB	...	...	...					
		FTAE34	VVCI	CAT BI	0535	0600	24	BANGKOK	VTBBYPYX
			VVCR	KHANH HOA/Cam Ranh Int'l	1135	1200	24	BRISBANE	YBBBYPYX
			VVCT	CAN THO/Can Tho Int'l	1735	1800	24	NADI	NFFNYPYX
			VVPB	HUE/Phu Bai	2335	0000	24	SINGAPORE	WSZZYPYX
			VVPQ	KIEN GIANG/Phu Quoc Int'l			24	TOKYO	RJTDYPYX
			VVD	Van Don Int'l			24	Abu Dhabi	OMZZYPYX
			VVDL	DA LAT/Lien Khuong			24	Bahrain	OBZZYPYX
		FTAE3x	VVDN	DA NANG	0535	0600	24	Beijing	ZBBBYPYX
			VVNB	HA NOI/Noi Bai	0835	0900	24	Beirut	OLLLYPYX
			VVTS	HO CHI MINH/Tan Son Nhat	1135	1200	30	Hong Kong	VHZZYPYX
					1435	1500		Jeddah	OEJDYPYX
					1735	1800		Karachi	OPZZYPYX
					2035	2100		Kuala Lumpur	WMZZYPYR
					2335	0000		Mumbai	VABBYPYX
					0235	0300		Incheon	RKSIYPYX
								Tehran	OIIIYPYX
								Wellington	NZZZYPYX