

International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO

WORKING PAPER (WP/15)

ASIA AND PACIFIC (APAC) TWENTY-FOURTH
MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGICAL
INFORMATION EXCHANGE WORKING
GROUP (MET/IE WG/24)

Nadi, Fiji, 21 to 24 April 2026

Agenda Item 4: Guidance Material Related to Meteorological Information Exchange**INCLUSION OF VONA HEADERS IN ROBEX HANDBOOK**

(Presented by New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This paper proposes the inclusion of a new Appendix into the APAC ROBEX Handbook, providing a list of VONA headers being exchanged by State volcano observatories within the Asia and Pacific Region.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Recommended Practice for State volcano observatories (SVOs) to use the VONA template for providing information on observed volcanic activity became applicable in November 2025, in Amendment 82 to Annex 3.

1.2 The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) [site](#) contains information on the abbreviated heading (“header”) that should be used when disseminating VONA over the aeronautical fixed services (AFS).

1.3 Headers take the form T₁T₂A₁A₂ii CCCC. For VONA, the message type T₁T₂ is WM and LM, to be used for the traditional alphanumeric code (TAC) and ICAO Meteorological Exchange (IWXXM) forms of the VONA, respectively. A₁A₂ is the usual country or territory designator (as per WMO No. 386), while ii is the series number of the bulletin.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 As for any new bulletin to be exchanged through the APAC ROBEX scheme, a METNO should be issued to advise of the new VONA bulletin to be issued.

2.2 International MET bulletins exchanged through the APAC ROBEX system have their headers catalogued either in the *ROBEX Handbook* (METAR and TAF bulletin headers), the *Regional SIGMET Guide* (SIGMET and tropical cyclone advisory headers) and the *Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch* (Doc 9766, volcanic ash advisory headers). The catalogues are a useful resource to assist in a common understanding between producers and consumers as to what information is provided, as well as acting as a useful reference for OPMET monitoring tasks.

2.3 For new services, such as VONA, a catalogue of headers used also serves as a measure of implementation and helps inform where assistance may best be targeted as well as highlight which States may be in a position to share their experiences.

2.4 It is proposed that a new Appendix is included in the ROBEX Handbook, cataloguing the headers in use for disseminating VONA issued by the APAC SVOs. Appendix A to this paper provides a suggested format for this catalogue of VONA headers for consideration by the meeting. Further, a minor edit is proposed to the ROBEX Handbook Section 8 *Exchange of SIGMET, TCA, VAA and VONA*, to refer to the new Appendix.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) invite States with designated SVOs to provide further VONA header information for this table, as available; and
- c) agree to include the proposed new Appendix into the ROBEX Handbook to cataloguing VONA headers, as provided in Appendix A to this paper.

APPENDIX A – Proposed VONA Catalogue for ROBEX Handbook

Editorial note – additional text is in grey highlight.

8. EXCHANGE OF SIGMET, TCA, VAA and VONA

[...]

8.11

WMO headings for VONA messages should include data designators (T1T2) as included in per section 3.1.1, and geographic designators (A1A2) used will be the country or territory designators, as included in WMO No. 386 Manual on the Global Telecommunication System. The location indicator can either be that assigned to the SVO (as per ICAO Doc 7910) or that assigned to the organisation distributing the VONA on behalf of the SVO. A list of headings advised as in use for VONA messages is provided in Appendix J.

[...]

APPENDIX J — APAC VONA Abbreviated Headings

SVO location and name (s)	CCCC of Originating Centre	WMO VONA Heading(s) Used	Remarks
New Zealand Earth Sciences NZ	NZKL	WMNZ01-05	New Zealand volcanoes, including Kermadec Islands
United States Alaska Volcano Observatory	PAVO	WMAK01-06	Alaskan volcanoes
		WMPN01-03	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) volcanoes
California Volcano Observatory	KCAL	WMUS01-003	
Cascades Volcano Observatory	KCAS	WMUS01-003	
Hawaiian Volcano Observatory	PHVO	WMPA01-03 WMPS01-02	Hawaiian volcanoes American Samoan volcanoes
Yellowstone Volcano Observatory	KYVO	WMUS01-003	