



Sixth Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 19 July 2002

Agenda Item 14: Regional preparation for the MET Divisional Meeting

NEED FOR LONGER LEADTIME FOR SIGNIFICANT WEATHER CHARTS

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

To propose the WAFCs extend the leadtime for issue of significant weather forecasts to at least sixteen hours before the validity time.

1. Introduction

1.1. This is a copy of a working paper Australia will present under Agenda Item 1.1 at the MET Divisional Meeting. The paper recommends forecasts of significant weather phenomena (SIGWX) be prepared and transmitted by the WAFCs at least sixteen hours before the validity times.

2. Background

2.1 A growing number of airlines are operating non-stop flights of 15 hours and longer. This trend towards longer flights is expected to continue with the introduction of the next generation of longer range aircraft. Currently, flights such as Los Angeles to Melbourne (15 hours 20 minutes) do not have access to adequate SIGWX, because of the current leadtimes for availability of these products is too short.

2.2 Consider a 15 hour flight that departs at 0500 UTC, with the flight planning documentation being prepared at 0330 UTC. With the current 12 hour leadtime, the crew will only be able to obtain SIGWX valid for 0600 and 1200 UTC. The crew will not have access to a SIGWX valid for 1800 or 0000 UTC, even though the flight continues until 2000 UTC, 8 hours beyond the period of validity of available SIGWXs.

3. Requirement

3.1 There is a growing requirement for SIGWX to be made available at least sixteen, and preferably eighteen hours before the period of validity.

4. Action for the MET Divisional Meeting

4.1 The meeting is invited to support the proposal to extend the leadtime for availability of the WAFS forecasts of significant weather to at least sixteen hours before the validity time.
