



Sixth Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 19 July 2002

Agenda Item 13: Quality assurance/performance monitoring in MET field

QUALITY ASSURANCE ISSUES IN THE MET FIELD

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents introductory information on the quality assurance (QA) issues that have to be addressed by the meeting. It gives a concise description of the QA related SARPs in the ICAO Annexes and stresses on the need for training of the MET personnel involved in the QA development and implementation.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Amendment 72 to Annex 3 (which became applicable on 1 November 2001) introduced requirements concerning quality management that include quality assurance and quality control of meteorological information supplied to the users. These requirements necessitate the development of appropriate regulations and formal documentation, as well as specialised training of the MET personnel involved in the QA activities.

1.2 QA related issues will be discussed at the MET Divisional Meeting, 2002, under Agenda Item 4: Institutional changes and trends in the provision of meteorological services to international air navigation. It is expected that States will wish to discuss the implementation of the new SARPs and provide advice to ICAO and WMO on the development of guidance material and the provision of training in order to facilitate global implementation.

1.3 The inclusion of QA in the agenda of CNS/MET SG is aimed to initiate exchange of information and views on the current situation and future development of the QA in the MET field in the ASIA/PAC Regions.

2. Discussion

Quality assurance related SARPs in the ICAO Annexes

2.1 The quality assurance SARPs were first introduced in the tenth edition of Annex 15 – Aeronautical Information Service (p. 3.2 refers), which became applicable on 6 November 1997. The new p. 3.2 – Quality system, set as a standard that, “as of 1 January 1998, each Contracting State shall take all necessary measures to introduce a properly organized quality system containing procedures and resources necessary to implement quality management at each function stage” in the AIS field. It has been noted that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9000 series of quality assurance standards provided a basic framework for the development of a QA programme but the details of such a program were to be formulated by each State.

2.2 Amendment 72 of Annex 3 introduced in Chapter 1 some definitions and in Chapter 2, p.2.2.2 to p.2.2.6, a number of SARPs related to quality assurance. In brief, the QA related recommended practices reflect the requirements that:

- a) the designated MET Authority establishes and implements a properly organized quality system (QS), comprising procedures, processes and resources to provide for the quality management (QM) of the met information supplied to the users;
- b) the QS should be compliant with the ISO 9000;
- c) the QS provides the users with assurance that the MET information supplied complies with the stated requirements;
- d) the QS includes verification/validation procedures in regard to the OPMET exchange, as well as resources for monitoring the adherence to the prescribed transmission schedules;
- e) audits should be conducted in order to demonstrate compliance of the QS applied.

Guidance Materials on quality systems

2.3 It is expected that the MET Divisional Meeting will adopt decisions on the development of guidance materials. In fact, it is planned that ICAO shall develop a guidance material on quality management for meteorological facilities and services provided in support of international air navigation. ICAO would invite WMO to consider development of guidance material on quality assurance to assist meteorological services in provision of services for international air navigation.

Status of the QA implementation in the region

2.4 It is known that there are a few States in the Region that have already established and implemented QA programmes for their MET services provider organizations. It is expected that these States will provide the meeting with information on their current and future activities related to quality assurance in the MET field. It should be noted, however, that the majority of States have not yet taken any action on this subject.

QA training

2.5 It is recognised that there is a strong need for a training of MET personnel that will be involved in the development and implementation of quality systems in their States. The meeting may wish to note that the first MET Quality Assurance Workshop for the EUR Region was held in Luxembourg, 27–29 May, 2002. The workshop was organized by ICAO with the support of Eurocontrol and was a part of the work programme of the Meteorology Group of the EANPG (METG) as a means to support the implementation of new provisions in Annex 3 concerning Quality Assurance for MET and following the same principles earlier introduced for AIS in Annex 15. The programme of the workshop is given in the Attachment 1. It is foreseen that similar introductory workshops/training courses will be held in WACAF and ESAF Regions.

2.6 In the light of the above, the meeting may wish to consider the necessity of organizing an introductory QA course/workshop similar to the one held by the ICAO EUR Office in order to facilitate the development of the quality assurance in the provision of meteorological services to the international air navigation in the ASIA/PAC Regions.

3. **Action by the Meeting**

3.1 The meeting is invited to :

- a) note the information regarding the requirement for the introduction of the QA systems in the MET field;
- b) discuss on the need for specialised training and if agreed, to consider formulation of the following draft conclusion:

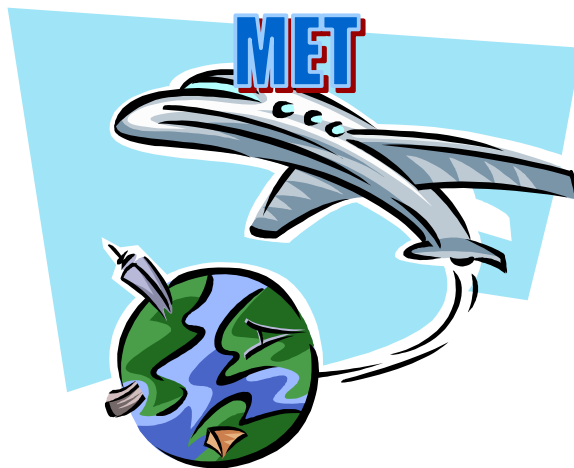
Draft Conclusion 6/... - That ICAO, in coordination with WMO, organize a seminar on the quality assurance in the provision of meteorological services to aviation in the ASIA/PAC Regions during 2003; and

- c) consider further action to be taken to foster implementation of QA systems in the ASIA/PAC Regions.

Quality Assurance Workshop, 27– 29 May 2002, IANS Luxembourg

(9h30 Monday 27 May to 13h00 Wednesday 29 May)

An Introduction to ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems for MET



- Introduction to Quality
- Quality Management Systems
- ISO 9000 Standards and Requirements
- ISO 9000 in Service Organizations
- Quality System Documentation
- Auditing Quality Systems
- Implementing an ISO 9000 System
- ISO 9000 : 2000 – The Future
- The Assessment Process
- Benefits of ISO 9000 Quality Systems
- AIS experience of ISO 9000 implementation
- Implementation in MET (Incl. costs & benefits)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

MET Staff, involved in quality management

WHERE?

Instilux, Luxembourg

HOW TO REGISTER?

Advance Registration is required

Complete and fax the form shown overleaf