



Agenda Item 3: Air Navigation Matters
3.3 Specific Developments in Air Navigation
• **MET**

WIFS TRANSITION STATUS UPDATE

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY Due to the termination of the ISCS service on 1 July 2012, this Working Paper conveys the up-to-date status of the current ISCS-G2 users in the Eastern Caribbean States that have registered for a WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) account. Many WIFS accounts in the region have not been active and only one State has been using WIFS operationally.	
References: State Letter N1-15.4 EMX0727 dated 18 August 2010 informing CAR Member States and current ISCS-G2 Users of the planned replacement of ISCS-G2 with WIFS.	
Strategic Objectives	<i>This working paper is related to Strategic Objectives A and C.</i>

1. Introduction

1.1 The U.S. presented working papers at the CNS/ATM/SG/2 in November 2011, at the NACC/WG/3 in May 2011, and AERMET/SG/11 in November 2011 outlining the options and process of moving to WIFS. Also, the WIFS Users Guide Manual was published in English and Spanish on March 2011. Both documents are posted at the ICAO NACC Website under e-documents.

1.2 The CAR and SAM ICAO Regional Offices have since distributed State Letters:

- State Letter LT 13/9.3-SA529, Dated 6 August 2010 informing SAM Member States and current ISCS Users of the planned replacement of ISCS-G2 with WIFS.
- State Letter N1-15.4 EMX0727 dated 18 August 2010 informing CAR Member States and current ISCS-G2 Users of the planned replacement of ISCS-G2 with WIFS.

1.3 This working paper reports on the progress of the transition from ISCS to WIFS specifically by the States in the Eastern part of the CAR Region and the required operational implementation of WIFS.

2. Discussion

2.1 WIFS has been operational since May 2010 for use as either the primary means of accessing WAFS data products or as a back-up to the International Satellite Communications System (ISCS). WIFS is also available as a back-up to SADIS FTP users.

2.2 The Washington WAFC Provider State extended the service for ISCS-G2 until 30 June 2012, however, additional extensions are not possible and beginning 1 July 2012, WIFS will be the only means available for users to obtain WAFS data products from the Washington WAFC.

2.3 Not all the data that was on ISCS will be available on WIFS. ISCS also made available non-WAFS data which was not intended for international air navigation use. ISCS users should contact the United States (US) National Weather Service (NWS) to inquire how they might obtain non-WAFS data. The contact for non-WAFS data is Mr. Robert Gillespie +1-301-713-9478 x 140 robert.gillespie@noaa.gov, or Mr. Michael Graf +1-301-713-1726 x 117 michael.graf@noaa.gov.

2.4 While SIGMETs are available on WIFS, the US NWS does not have a way to test the successful receipt of SIGMETs. These products are event driven, and are issued at irregular intervals, so it is not possible to know when one is issued and then test for its receipt. Meteorological Watch Offices should send test SIGMETs at least once a year, and then check for their availability on WIFS.

2.5 ISCS-G2 users are responsible for arranging access to WIFS which is via the public Internet, and also for any required modifications to WAFS workstation software necessary to download WAFS products from the WIFS service.

2.6 The FAA is pleased to state that all registered ISCS users in the CAR/SAM regions now have account(s) on WIFS.

2.7 The FAA is primarily tracking the transition States in the CAR/SAM Regions that are registered ISCS users to WIFS. As such the FAA receives monthly access and usage reports on a per WIFS account basis. The FAA is closely monitoring this information to ascertain the state of all WIFS activity.

2.8 Based on these reports received from the US FAA, Table 1 lists the updated status only for the Eastern Caribbean States that are deemed to be using WIFS operationally, those that have shown a sporadic use of the WIFS and the States that have not presented WIFS activity yet.

Table 1. WIFS transition – User update for the Eastern Caribbean States

Name	Location	Country	ISCS user	Planned Date	Last Access
REGISTERED USERS				Using WIFS Operationally	
Niels Oger	Fort-de-France	Guadeloupe	Y		5/12/12
REGISTERED USERS				Sporadic use of WIFS	
Niels Oger	Fort-de-France Cedex	Martinique	Y		5/12/12

Name	Location	Country	ISCS user	Planned Date	Last Access
Hampden Lovell	Bridgetown	Barbados	Y		12/15/11
Bryan Thomas	Piarco	Trinidad and Tobago	Y		10/29/11
Donald Simon	St. John's	Antigua and Barbuda	Y		11/10/11
Thomas Auguste	Castries	St. Lucia	Y		10/31/11
REGISTERED USERS				NO WIFS Activity	
Emmanuel Rigby	P.O Box 1058	Turks and Caicos Islands			
Sheryl Etienne-LeBlanc		Dominica			
Delver Martin	St. Kitts	St. Kitts and Nevis			
Helen Tonge	The Valley	Anguilla			
Denzil Jones	Golden Rock	Montserrat			
Lydia Rubaine	Beef Island	Tortola			
Rignald Eugenio	Philipsburg	St. Maarten	Y	6/15/12	
David Burgin	Amos Vale	St. Vincent and the Grenadines			
John Peters	St. George's	Grenada	Y		

2.9 The goal was for all WIFS account users to have completed testing with their associated work stations and be active prior to March 2012 to ensure a smooth transition from ISCS-G2 to WIFS, however, this has not been the case.

3. WIFS Coordination Point-of-Contact in USA

3.1 For all ISCS-G2 transition to WIFS environment, please direct all your correspondence to:

Ms Dulce M. Rosés
Federal Aviation Administration
Mail Stop: AJW-53
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591
Phone: +1-305-716-1830
Email: dulce.roses@faa.gov

4. Action by the Meeting

4.1 Based on paragraph 2.8 the meeting is invited to:

- a) consider the information presented in this working paper;
- b) inform the WIFS Coordination Point-of-Contact, and

- c) remind States in the Eastern Caribbean as WIFS users, to adopt measures to acquire, upgrade or replace WAFS facilities to access the WIFS as soon as possible since the ISCS-G2 service will terminate on **30 June 2012**.

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