



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office
INFORMATION PAPER

MET/TF/3— IP/03

19/11/25

**Third Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG)
Implementation of Aeronautical Meteorology (MET) Task Force (MET/TF/3)**

Mexico City, Mexico, 9 to 12 December 2025.

Agenda Item 5: Requirements for Current and Future Meteorological Services

UPDATES TO ISSUING THE VONA FROM THE US

(Presented by United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation (VONA) to be transmitted by the US on or around Jan 2026.	
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References:</i>	Amendment 82 to Annex 3 and the PANS-MET

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The content and format of the VONA has been defined by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and becomes a recommended practice for State Volcano Observatories (SVOs) to disseminate beginning in November 2025, per Amendment 82 to Annex 3 and the PANS-MET for both TAC and IWXXM forms. This paper will highlight the US method for implementation of the VONA.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 The VONA is a global notification product used by SVOs to inform the aviation community (e.g., meteorologists, air traffic managers, pilots, and dispatchers) of volcanic activity that could pose a hazard to aviation. Within the Anchorage and Washington Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) airspace there are five U.S. SVOs that provide this information.

2.2 For many SVOs, the challenge to dissemination of the VONA stems from the fact that not all SVOs have a direct connection to Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS). The AFS is the telecommunication service provided primarily for the safety of global air navigation and for the regular, efficient and economical operation of air services.

2.3 In the US, the SVOs in the Washington and Anchorage VAAC areas of responsibility do not have AFS connections. However, the Washington Inter-Regional OPMET Gateway (IROG) / Regional OPMET Data Bank (RODB) has an email tool that allows an SVO to submit their VONA via an email. That VONA is then processed like a normal OPMET message received via AFTN/AMHS. Some States in the region are already familiar and use this tool as backup for providing METAR and TAF. It's known as eMail Data Input System (EDIS). For states that would like to provide this information to their SVOs, please see here: [The NWS eMail Data Input System \(EDIS\)](#) and allows the VONA to be distributed world-wide for airlines just like a Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA).

2.4 The process to build the TAC WMO ID for VONAs can follow a few different options. We've described them below, using the template (TTAAii CCCC).

- Option 1)

- The TT in the WMO ID template is WM, per ICAO or WMAAii CCCC
- The AA in the WMO ID template is the geographical location, for our example we used AK for Alaska, or WMAKii CCCC
- The ii is a number with two digits. Helps to distinguish bulletins. For some locations with frequent active volcanos, we chose 01-05. Essentially that provided 5 WMO IDs for this Alaskan region. so now we have WMAK01-05 CCCC
- The CCCC typically should be the issuing SVO, in our Alaskan example the CCCC is PAVO, so the 5 WMO IDs are below:

WMAK01 PAVO, WMAK02 PAVO, WMAK03 PAVO,
WMAK04 PAVO, WMAK05 PAVO

- The CCCCs are not typically provided for SVOs and they will need to be agreed upon by the State Meteorological Authority and the SVO. Then that CCCC is sent to ICAO and registered in ICAO doc 7910, which can be a lengthy process.

- Option 2 Alternatively, all VAACs and IROG/RODBs have registered CCCCs in doc 7910. So, if mutually agreeable, the SVO and the supporting VAAC or IROG/RODB can agree to use said CCCC for their WMO ID. An example, KNES is the CCCC for the Washington VAAC. So, any SVO in the Washington VAAC domain could use KNES rather than option 1.

2.5

- An example of the TAC ICAO formatted VONA is in the **Appendix**.
- IWXXM VONA WMO IDs replace the TT (WM) with LM to identify that it is an IWXXM OPMET

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper

APPENDIX
(EXAMPLE TAC VONA)

WMAK01 PAVO DDHHMM
VONA
DTG: 20231003/1412Z
VOLCANO: SHISHALDIN 311360
PSN: N05445 W16358
AREA: ALEUTIANS
SOURCE ELEV: 9373FT AMSL
NOTICE NR: 2023/125
CURRENT COLOUR CODE: RED
PREVIOUS COLOUR CODE: ORANGE
SVO: ALASKA VOLCANO OBSERVATORY
ACT STS: ERUPTION OCCURRED
DUR: ONGOING CONS
VA CLD HGT: 40000FT AMSL
HGT SOURCE: SATELLITE
MOV: S
CTC: ALASKA VOLCANO OBSERVATORY DUTY SCIENTIST, TEL +1-907-786-7497
RMK: SIG VA EM OBS IN SATELLITE AT 20231003/1350Z. VA EM EXP TO BE CONS FOR SEVERAL HR.
NXT NOTICE: A NEW VONA WILL BE ISSUED IF COND CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY OR IF THE COLOUR CODE CHANGES

— END —