



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

(MET/TF/4)— WP/03
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**Fourth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group
(NACC/WG) Implementation of Aeronautical Meteorology (MET) Task Force (MET/TF/4)**
Mexico City, Mexico, 28 to 31 July 2026

Agenda Item 3: Follow-up on Valid Conclusions and Decisions from NACC/WG and MET/TF previous meetings.

VONA UPDATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND DESSEMINATION

(Presented by United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This WP briefly updates the group on the latest for VONA implementation and dissemination via AMHS and WIFS and provides guidance for those States looking to implement.	
Action:	As described in Section 3
Strategic Objectives:	• Every Flight is Safe and Secure • Aviation is Environmentally Sustainable
References:	• AMD82 to Annex 3 and PANS-MET

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 With the adoption of the Amendment 82 ICAO Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* there are new requirements for the Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation (VONA).

1.2 In addition to the current requirement for designated State Volcano Observatories (SVOs) to issue a VONA e.g., email website etc. It is now a recommended practice for designated SVOs to disseminate the VONA in both traditional alphanumeric code (TAC) and ICAO Meteorological Exchange (IWXXM) formats. This paper will provide US updates to meet that provision and some guidance for States looking to implement the VONA over Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The VONA is critical to aviation safety and awareness in the airspace and is an integral product that provides continuity and verification of volcanic activity for Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAACs), Meteorological Watch Offices (MWOs), Area Control Centers (ACCs)/Flight Information Centers (FICs) and Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) offices. VAACs and MWOs in the NACC and SAM Regions rely on the VONA for the verification of volcanic ash and to produce volcanic ash products, such as volcanic ash advisories and volcanic ash SIGMETs.

2.2 By utilizing Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS), the availability of time sensitive information will be received more often and will more effectively reach the ACCs/FICs and NOTAM offices than through current means of dissemination.

How to begin the dissemination process

- It is recognized that most SVOs do not have direct access to the AFS network, nor have a registered 'CCCC' location identifier. SVOs can either use the location identifier of their State's National OPMET Centre (NOC) that is disseminating the VONA on their behalf – or they could request a new location identifier to be registered with ICAO (see below).

- Additionally, the US Regional OPMET Data Bank (RODB) Washington is operated by the US Meteorological Service Provider (National Weather Service) and serves as one of two RODBs (Washington and Brasilia) responsible for the dissemination of OPMET data within the NAM/CAR/SAM Region. If the State does not have access to the AMHS, the National Weather Service offers a dissemination tool called the eMail Data Input System ([eDIS](#)) that can be used to route the VONA. To access eDIS, click [here](#) (Go to eDIS Access Request Information).

- The process below provides a template to create VONA headers and prepare them for dissemination.

- a. Abbreviated headings for the VONA are developed following the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) manual on Global Telecommunication System (WMO-No. 386) for the exchanging of aeronautical meteorological data through AFS.

- b. The VONA header is developed using the form T₁T₂A₁A₂ii CCCC where:

- i. T₁T₂ is the message type, with WM and LM to be used for the TAC and IWXXM forms of the VONA, respectively.
- ii. A₁A₂ is the country or territory designators, as included in WMO No. 386.
- iii. ii is the series number of the bulletin - a two-digit number used to differentiate two or more bulletins with the same T₁T₂A₁A₂ issued by an originator.
- iv. CCCC is the location designator of the originator of the message.

- Identifying and registering the “CCCC”

- A station Identification (ID) or “CCCC” is needed to disseminate the VONA.
- ICAO Member States coordinate with ICAO to request updates to location indicators for inclusion in the *Location Indicators* (Doc 7910) quarterly publication.
- Requests are submitted by the State’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) through an official letter or formal email to the ICAO regional office to which it is accredited.
- The request should include key information such as the State and location name, proposed location indicator, coordinates, and the type of service (e.g. aerodrome, heliport, FIR, etc.). The ICAO Regional Officer will then coordinate with ICAO Headquarters to finalize the change to be included in Doc 7910.
- Coordination with the State, as needed, may occur before processing is complete.

Once approved, the CAA will ensure that the update is incorporated into the next applicable amendment cycle of Doc 7910, published in its State Aeronautical Information Publication, and distributed in a NOTAM.

2.3 The table and follow on information below, provides an example of how a designated SVO in the U.S. (Anchorage, Alaska) was updated in Doc 7910 last year.

ICAO ID	Airport ID	Airport/Location	Airport Name	City	State Code	State Name	Country Code
PAVO	PAVO	Alaska Volcano Observatory/Anchorage AK	PAVO VONA Observatory	Anchorage	AK	Alaska	US
Latitude	Longitude	Boundary ACC ID	ACC Name	Comments			
61-11-18.50N	149-48-7.60W	ZAN	Anchorage	Add to ICAO Doc 7910			

- The SVO's "CCCC" is PAVO. PA is the ICAO location indicator prefix for Alaska, and VO was used to represent the Volcanic Observatory.
- It should be noted that if the new location indicator results in a "CCCC" already in use, then the last two letters will need to be adjusted.
- The identified "CCCC" is required to be coordinated with ICAO Headquarters.
- Send information (sample below) to the ICAO Air Navigation Bureau Technical Officer and Chief of the Operations Section for inclusion in Doc 7910, per the guidance above.

2.4 References

- Amendment 82 to the ICAO Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation Location Indicators* (Doc 7910)
- Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) (Doc 9766)
- Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Meteorology (PANS-MET) (Doc 10157)
- Manual on the Global Telecommunication System (WMO-No. 386)

2.5 Contact information for questions:

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3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) consider the local implementation of the VONA over AMHS; and
- c) discuss relevant follow-up actions as appropriate.

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