



International Civil Aviation Organization

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC OPMET MANAGEMENT
TASK FORCE (OPMET/M TF/8)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 – 25 March 2010

**Agenda Item 3d: Review of regional guidance material on OPMET exchange:
(Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide)**

REVIEW UPDATES TO THE SIGMET GUIDE

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper provides proposed updates to the SIGMET Guide and requests input from the meeting to make additional proposals.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide was last amended in September 2009 which mainly included updated FASID Tables MET 1B, 3A, and 3B associated with the approval of amendment proposal APAC 09/7 (MET), changes to WMO Header entries for China in Appendix H and the addition of VAAC Toulouse to the list of participating VAACs in SIGMET tests in Appendix J. To keep in line with the yearly cycle of updates as proposed with the ROBEX Handbook, the SIGMET Guide should also be examined for possible updates annually. The SIGMET Guide can be accessed at http://www.bangkok.icao.int/edocs/sigmet_guide4.pdf.

2. PROPOSED SIGMET GUIDE UPDATES

2.1 The proposed SIGMET Guide updates based on information received from States and meetings are provided in the attachment for review.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to review the proposed updates to the SIGMET Guide and provide any additional proposed changes to be included in the next amendment.

Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide – list of updates – 9 March 2010

Strategy for updating: make all changes not related to Am 75 to Annex 3 and accept all changes and save. Turn on track changes and make changes associated with Am 75 to Annex 3 for ease of seeing the difference of changes associated with Am 75 that could be provided approximately 6 months before the applicability date of 18 Nov 2010. After this date, the track changes can be turned off and reposted without notification to States since it would be considered editorial.

Green highlight – change made in draft

Text

- Replace LOC with PSN when an eruption is referenced – pages 3-7, 3-8.
- Add BLW FLnnn with SFC/FLnnn (Amendment 75 to Annex 3): pages 3-4, 3-6 with note that BLW used for CB only
- Change compass directions from eight to sixteen and related examples (Amendment 75 to Annex 3): pages 3-6, 3-7, 3-9, 3-11
Appendix F
- Introduction of TC NN for forecast TC not presently named – for storms whose strength is forecasted to reach TC levels (Amendment 75 to Annex 3): pages 3-10,
- Introduction of time in forecast position of SIGMET event (Amendment 75 to Annex 3): pages 3-4, 3-5, 3-7, 3-8, 3-10

Appendices A

- Replace with latest FASID Table MET 1B, Meteorological Watch Offices (and observe if Maldives updates VRMF for Male FIR)

Appendix B

- Replace with latest FASID Table MET 3A, Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres
(which will include information on MID Region (Bahrain, Emirates, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen) as MWO recipients of TC advisories from TCAC New Delhi – italics for being outside the region)

Appendix C

- Replace with latest FASID Table MET 3B, Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres

Appendix D

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Appendix G

- Seek support from State(s) and OPMET/M TF to update Appendix G in accordance to Amendment 75 to Annex 3 utilizing 16 compass points, replacing BLW with SFC (except for CB), adding time to FCST and utilizing NN in WC SIGMET where necessary (unnamed storm that is expected to become a TC)

Appendix E

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Appendix F

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Appendix G

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Appendix H

- add entry for Afghanistan
- add WSAU21 for Melbourne/World Met. Centre
- Replaced Townsville YBTL ABTL to Cairns YBCS ABCS
- Add WSKR31, WCKR31, and WVKR31 to SUNAN MWO entry for WMO SIGMET Headings
- change ZKKK to ZKKP in accordance to Doc 7910 for Pyongyang FIR in SUNAN MWO entry and complete entry
- complete WMO headers for India
- should Lao PDR have entry WCLA31? Land-locked, but could have cyclone conditions and complete entry to include WMO header for WV SIGMET
- add WCMV31 and WVMV31 to Male MWO entry for WMO SIGMET Headings
- change Male FIR designator to VRMF
- add WMO headers for Myanmar
- check all other entries in Appendix H (all States with MWOs should have WV WMO Heading)
- italicize Kansas City MWO so that the ASIA/PAC SIGMET tests' statistics will not include this entry

Appendix I

- Verify against FASID Table MET 3A (the area of coverage where it is already known that Réunion needs to be updated)
- Add Toulouse in VA section

Appendix J

- Remove (under consideration) for VAAC Toulouse, page J-2
- Add note 3) MWOs in MID Region under TCAC Delhi plan to participate in WC SIGMET test beginning in late 2010, page J-3 (3.1.1.4)
- Make note that “if no SIGMET test message issued due to active SIGMET, please notify the SIGMET tests focal points below and the ICAO Regional Office, Bangkok” at the end of 3.2 and 3.2.3.1 (c) – that is, add part (c) to include it as an option for the State to choose for safety reasons...“if the State decides for safety reasons, not to issue a SIGMET due to an existing SIGMET, please notify the SIGMET tests focal points below and the ICAO Regional Office, Bangkok”
