



**Agenda Item 3: Amendment 76 to Annex 3 – Meteorological service for International air navigation – Follow up to the analysis on requirements for the new OPMET (METAR/SPECI and TAF) messages format**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
This working paper presents information on METAR, SPECI, TAF and SIGMET in digital format.	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS 12), Havana, Cuba, 7 – 11 June 2004.</li></ul>	
<b>ICAO strategic objectives:</b>	<i>A – Safety C – Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport</i>

1. **Background**

1.1 Annex 3 – Meteorological service for international air navigation is amended every three (3) years. Its last amendment was adopted by ICAO Council on 23 February 2010 with applicability on 18 November 2010 and 15 November 2012, the latter related to Standard 2.2.3 on the establishment and application of a quality system to meteorological information to be provided to international air navigation.

1.2 States should have received Letter AN 10/1-12/8 24, submitted by ICAO Secretary General on 24 February 2012 related to Proposal for amendment to Annex 3 regarding aeronautical meteorology requirements, which mentioned that the Air Navigation Commission, at the fifth meeting of its 187<sup>th</sup> Session and the eighth meeting of its 188<sup>th</sup> Session held on 14 June 2011 and 22 November 2011, respectively, reviewed the proposal developed by the Secretariat with the assistance of the Aerodrome Meteorological Observation and Forecast Study Group (AMOFSG), the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG), the Meteorological Warnings Study Group (METWSG) and the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG).

1.2.1 The referred proposal was prepared to amend the standards and recommended practices (SARPS) of Annex 3 – Meteorological service for international air navigation regarding aeronautical meteorology requirements. The Commission authorized that such proposal be transmitted to corresponding contracting States and international organizations in order to gather their comments.

2. **Discussion**

2.1 Even though States should have submitted their comments to Montreal on 15 June 2012, and the last version of the referred proposal for amendment is not available yet, we could make a regional analysis of the impact of this amendment in the SAM Region.

2.2 The proposal for amendment to Appendices 3 (2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5), 5 (1.1.2, 1.1.3 and 1.1.45), and 6 (1.1.6, 1.1.7 and 1.1.9), of Annex 3, related to:

Recommendation.— *METAR and SPECI should be disseminated, under bilateral agreements between States in a position to do so, in the ~~WMO BUFR code~~ digital form<sup>1</sup>, in addition to the dissemination of the METAR/SPECI/TAF/SIGMET in accordance with....*

*Note.— ~~The BUFR code form is contained in WMO Publication No. 306, Manual on Codes, Volume I.2, Part B— Binary Codes.~~*

*Nota.— ~~La forma de clave BUFR figura en la Publicación núm. 306 de la OMM, Manual de claves, Volumen I.2, Parte B— Claves binarias.~~*

**METAR/SPECI/TAF/SIGMET in digital form shall be formatted in accordance with a globally interoperable information exchange model and shall use extensible markup language (XML)/geography markup language (GML).**

**METAR/SPECI/TAF/SIGMET in digital form shall be accompanied by the appropriate metadata.**

**Note. — Guidance on the information Exchange model, XML/GML and the metadata profile is provided in the Manual<sup>2</sup> on the Digital Exchange of Aeronautical Meteorological Information (Doc #####).**

2.3 This proposal introduces, as an enabling clause, a new digital information environment for METAR/SPECI, TAF and SIGMET. This is the first step of the full migration which will occur in subsequent amendments to Annex 3 as new requirements are developed and is fully in line with the planned migration of aeronautical information management (AIM) as will be reflected in Annex 15 — *Aeronautical Information Services*.

2.4 Information paper (IP/03) presents detailed information on some considerations related with the roadmap for the transition to the table-driven data representation.

2.5 During the meeting, it is expected to create an ad-hoc group to prepare a tentative roadmap proposal for the implementation of Amendment 76 to Annex 3 on this particular issue.

### 3. **Action required**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information presented in this working paper;
- b) agree other actions as necessary.

- END -

<sup>1</sup> In this way will be represent the new text of the proposal for amendment

<sup>2</sup> A manual on the digital exchange of aeronautical meteorological information to support these provisions will be prepared. The first draft can be found in the website of the Aerodrome Meteorological Observation and Forecast Study Group (AMOFSG) - <http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/amofsg/>.