



(Lima, Peru, from 18 to 22 September 2017)

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**Agenda Item 3:** Review of Project H4 – OPMET Exchange

**Review of the Addition of US Non-AOP OPMET Data and Provision of Remarks as Part of the METAR**

(Presented by the United States of America)

**SUMMARY**

This paper reviews the addition of 218 non-AOP US METAR/TAF sites to the international US collectives and the establishment of new WMO collectives and the change to US policy where all US AOP and non-AOP METAR/SPECIs now include remarks at the end of the report.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Washington OPMET data bank provides Operational Meteorological (OPMET) data in support of domestic (i.e., the United States [US]) and international (i.e., ICAO) requirements and obligations.

1.2 The US received a request from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to add additional US Non-Aerodrome Operational Planning (Non-AOP) airports for global distribution on the World Area Forecast System File Service (WIFS). This request was reviewed and accepted by the US Meteorological (MET) Authority, and implemented last year.

1.3 In addition, the US has changed its policy on the inclusion of Remarks (supplementary data in the METAR) as part of the METAR for global dissemination and any feedback or questions can be directed back to the US MET Provider, the National Weather Service (NWS).

**2. DISCUSSION**

**2.1 INCLUSION OF ALL AOP AND NON-AOP AERODROMES WHERE NWS PROVIDES A TAF**

2.1.1 In response to the increasing use of Non-AOP aerodromes by international operators the United States added 218 Non-AOP METAR and TAF sites to the US international collectives.

2.1.2 The new list of 685 stations is using the following WMO series: FT/SA/SPUS21-25 KWBC. The current list of 418 AOP and non-AOP airports under the WMO series FT/SA/SPUS71-75 KWBC were retired earlier this year.

2.1.3 The Washington OPMET Databank uses the same collectives for exchange of information with other Regional OPMET Centres where an exchange policy or agreement exists. This same collective will be coordinated with the SADIS Provider State for distribution on SADIS. Therefore, the collectives on WIFS and SADIS for U.S. airports should be identical.

2.1.4 Users of U.S. METAR reports are encouraged to access the following link below to retrieve the United States Federal Meteorological Handbook (FMH-1) Surface Observations that documents the METAR code format with Remarks.

<http://www.ofcm.gov/fmh-1/pdf/FMH1.pdf>

## 2.2 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS FOR WIFS

2.1.2 As a normal routine practice the US encourages States that do not see their METAR/SPECI/TAF reports on WIFS to contact WAFC Washington. To contact WIFS technical support: E-mail: [wifs.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:wifs.admin@noaa.gov) Phone: 1(816) 584-7200 or 1(877) 280-2811

## 3.0 CONCLUSION

### 3.1 ACTION BY THE MEETING

Please note the information above.

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