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METEOROLOGY PANEL



"METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY" IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RESTRUCTURING OF ICAO ANNEX 3 AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A PANS-MET

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Introduction

- ✓ For the past few years, the ICAO Panel on Meteorology (METP) Working Group on Meteorological Cost Recovery Guidance and Governance (WGMCRGG), within its tasks, has been addressing the issue of 'meteorological authority' in response to Recommendation 4/2 of the ICAO Meteorological Committee.
- ✓ Divisional Meeting in 2014 (MET/14). In view of an identified relationship between the tasks of the WG-MCRGG and the restructuring of ICAO Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation and the (re)introduction of Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Meteorology (PANS-MET)



Discussion

- ✓ The WG-RIM meeting provided historical background on the issue of meteorological authorities, referring to relevant ICAO provisions, relevant findings from a global study by the WMO Commission on Aeronautical Meteorology (CMAe) conducted in 2016/17, and clarification of how the provisions of amended ICAO Annex 3 could potentially be applied to ensure a clearer distinction between entities responsible for the regulation (organization) and provision (provision) of meteorological services for international air navigation.
- ✓ On the latter aspect, the clarification essentially proposed an amendment to the existing definition of "meteorological authority" and the introduction of a new definition of "meteorological service provider" within Chapter 1 of Annex 3, together with a clarification of how Chapter 2 could be amended to accommodate the new/updated definitions.



Discussion

- ✓ METP/4 highlighted that undertaking a review and update of the provisions of Annex 3 and supporting guidance related to the issue of meteorological authority would require resources that were not available to the WG-MCRGG. In addition, it was recognized that potentially significant changes to the structure and content of Annex 3 brought about by the introduction of the NAPs-MET in the 2022 deadline could influence when it would be appropriate to address the issue of meteorological authority.
- ✓ This was considered to be a critical aspect that the METP should take into account in its deliberations. METP/4 was informed that the expert views expressed at WG-MCRGG/4 (May 2018) appeared to generally support making changes to Annex 3 associated with the issue of meteorological authority no earlier than Amendment 80 (applicability in November 2022). METP/4 members supported the WGMCRGG's position in this regard.



Discussion

- ✓ While not reflected in the final report of the METP/4 meeting, comments made at the Panel meeting by some experts highlighted that other Annexes to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, e.g. Annex 11 – Air Traffic Services, treat the "**authority**" only as the "**provider**". For example, Annex 11, Chapter 1 (Definitions) currently defines:

Appropriate ATS authority. *The relevant authority designated by the State responsible for providing air traffic services in the airspace concerned.*

- ✓ *In addition, Annex 11, Chapter 2 (General), contains:*

2.1 Establishment of the authority [...] ***2.1.3*** *Where it has been determined that air traffic services will be provided, the States concerned shall designate the authority responsible for providing such services. .*

Note 1.— The authority responsible for establishing and providing services may be a State or an appropriate body.



Discussion

- ✓ While the views expressed by some experts in METP/4 did not necessarily advocate that Annex 3 should follow the same path as Annex 11 (**i.e., treat the meteorological authority only as a supplier**), these views were also in no way reflected in the METP. /4, however, reflect a broader need to ensure that any and all definitions applied in the context of this issue of 'meteorological authority' within Annex 3 (and other Annexes where applicable) **are clear and unambiguous in their intended application.**



Considerations made by the WG-MCRGG

- ✓ At the WG-MCRGG/5 meeting in February 2019, the Working Group considered, firstly, that it served as a progress report on the outcomes of WGMCRGG/4 and METP/4, both held in 2018, including a proposal to amend the definition of **meteorological authority and introduce a new definition of 'meteorological service provider(s)'** and, secondly, it served to invite the WG-MCRGG to determine how to move forward on this issue in the context of Annex 3 as part of Amendment 80 (Applicability in November 2022), Amendment 81 (applicability in November 2024) or a subsequent amendment.

- ✓ Regardless of which amendment to Annex 3 is considered the best (or least worst) option, the WG-MCRGG was reminded of the direct relevance of the work being done by the WG-RIM to restructure Annex 3 and introduce the PANS-METs on a similar timescale, i.e. in the early 2020s. Basically, any modification of the definition of meteorological authority and its associated provisions in Annex 3 should be made:
 - a) as part of the restructuring of Annex 3 and introduction of the PANS-MET; or
 - b) only once the restructuring of Annex 3 and the (re)introduction of the NAPs-METs have been completed.



Considerations made by the WG-MCRGG

- ✓ The determination of whether Option (a) or Option (b) is preferred, or whether there are other options to be considered, is a matter that the WG-RIM had to consider carefully since, with almost 100 references in Annex 3 to the 'meteorological authority' (or 'meteorological authorities') and at that time there were no references to 'meteorological service providers', amendments within Annex 3 itself and consequent amendments within other Annexes, PANS and supporting guidance texts could be significant.
- ✓ Following the completion of its deliberations, WG-MCRGG/5 formulated the Agreed Action which essentially established an **ad hoc group** to work with the ICAO Secretariat and/or WG-MRI, as appropriate, to address the issue of meteorological authority to a greater extent, part of the restructuring of Annex 3 and introduction of the PANS-MET.



Action project

Draft WG-MRI Decision – **Addressing the issue of 'meteorological authority' in the context of the restructuring of Annex 3 and the introduction of PANS-MET**

That, taking note of Recommendation 4/2 of the 2014 ICAO Departmental Meeting on Meteorology (MET/14), the Agreed Action of the WG-MCRGG/5 meeting, the WG-MRI decides that the 'meteorological authority' issue should be addressed as part of or after the restructuring of Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation and the introduction of Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Meteorology (PANS-MET).

Y

WG-MRI Draft Action – **Preparation of a Proposal for an Amendment to ICAO Provisions to Address the Issue of 'Meteorological Authority'**

That, in response to the previous WG-MRI Decision, an ad hoc group composed of "... to assist the ICAO Secretariat in the preparation of a proposal for an amendment to the ICAO provisions relating to the issue of 'meteorological authority', to be introduced as part of or after the restructuring of Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation and (re)introduction of Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Meteorology (PANS-MET);



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Thank you

