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**Agenda Item 8: Implementation of MET quality system**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**Summary**

This working paper contains information on the requirements related to quality management with regard to quality assurance and quality control of meteorological information provided to users.

**References**

- Report of the Twelfth Meeting of CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/12, Havana, Cuba, 2004);
- Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/14, San José, Costa Rica, 15 to 20 April 2007); and
- AN-WP/8294 of 22 January 2008.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Amendment 72 to Annex 3 (which became applicable on 1 November 2001) introduced, in the interest of flight safety, requirements concerning quality management that include quality assurance and quality control of meteorological information supplied to users, and the qualifications and training of meteorological personnel serving international air navigation. These provisions, as far as possible, had been aligned with “quality system” provisions introduced into Annex 15 – *Aeronautical Information Services*.

1.2 The ICAO quality system provisions recommended conformity with the ISO 9000 series of quality assurance standards. These requirements necessitate the development of appropriate regulations and formal documentation, and would have to be continuously monitored. Furthermore, States have to develop mechanisms on how to implement the corrective actions originating from their audits referred to in Annex 3, paragraph 2.2.6. For a number of States, these audits are a new requirement.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The audits referred to in Annex 3 are the responsibility of the State, i.e., an audit by a certified auditor from that State, which does not involve missions from international organizations, such as are used in the ICAO safety oversight audit programme. In view of these new requirements, the MET Divisional Meeting (2002) adopted Recommendation 4/3 calling ICAO and WMO to develop joint guidance material to assist States in the development of quality management systems for the provision of meteorological services for international air navigation. In addition, GREPECAS formulated Conclusion 12/66 regarding CAR/SAM training in MET quality management.

2.2 In this regard, ICAO in coordination with WMO published in 2007 the *Manual on the Quality Management System for the provision of meteorological service to international air navigation* (Doc 9873), and in accordance with Conclusions 12/66 and 13/69, WMO in coordination with ICAO, carried out the CAR/SAM Seminar on quality management and cost recovery of aeronautical meteorological services, from 11 to 15 December 2006.

2.3 During the Seminar on quality management, the delegate of Peru presented Standard ISO 9001:2000 mandatory documented procedures and MET service operation procedures of Lima Jorge Chávez aerodrome, which were analyzed through workshops by meteorologists representing the CAR/SAM regions, suggesting the separation of the working instructions of the Aerodrome Meteorological Office and the Meteorological Watch Office. In addition, it was suggested that the Aeronautical Meteorology Subgroup should establish a task force to analyze and standardize the instructions, in order to be used as a guide for CAR/SAM States.

2.4 The subgroup may note that in reviewing the Report of the Thirty First Meeting of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG/31), the Air Navigation Commission requested the Secretariat to develop proposals to amend Annex 3 related to quality management systems (AN Min. 148-14). In this regard, the Secretariat requested to upgrade these Recommendations to Standards; this upgrade is particularly important since it will be an essential component in support of the implementation of quality management systems by States. Additionally, this upgrade will be aligned with the provisions of Annex 15 – *Aeronautical Information Services*, where provisions related to QMS are already classified as Standards.

2.5 In this respect, the Secretariat prepared the corresponding amendment (AN-WP/8294), for consideration of the Air Navigation Commission. This proposal is part of the draft Amendment 75 to Annex 3, to be applicable in November 2010.

2.6 In order to assist States in the implementation of a MET quality management system, with the development of procedures and instructions for MET service aligned with Doc 9783, the meeting may agree that, following the suggestions made at the QMS Seminar, a task could be included for the subgroup to review and standardize the procedures and instructions developed by the Peruvian State, with the purpose of having a Guide for the States of the Region that may require it, and formulate the following draft decision:

### **DRAFT**

**DECISION 09/XX –**

### **GUIDE OF PROCEDURES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR MET SERVICE, ALIGNED WITH WMO QMS**

That, in order to assist States in the implementation of a MET Quality Management System, the subgroup should include a task for the standardization of procedures and instructions for MET service aligned with Doc 9873.

3. **Actions proposed to the meeting:**

The meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information contained in this working paper;
- b) consider the draft decision in paragraphs 2.6; and
- c) formulate other actions resulting from the discussion of this working paper.

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