



Agenda Item 6: Review of the CAR/SAM ANP/FASID, Part VI - MET

UNITED STATES NAMING CONVENTION FOR FASID TABLE MET 1A

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

The United States has multiple meteorological offices issuing Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs). This paper highlights the recent change in the naming convention used by the US to identify forecast offices and what is used in FASID TABLE MET 1A (Column 2 and 5 specifically).

1. Introduction

1.1 During the recent review of the FASID Table MET1A, the use of location identifiers (LOCID) for National Weather Service Weather (NWS) Forecast Offices (WFO) providing the TAF for the aerodrome were in conflict with the practices used by ICAO. This problem is highlighted in Columns 2 and 5 of the Table in that the NWS WFO does not have a unique ICAO LOCID separate from the aerodrome LOCID. The U.S. advised ICAO of the conflict in naming convention and proposed an alternative solution. The United States uses KWBC, which represents the National Weather Service Telecommunication Gateway (NWSTG) in Silver Spring, for the issuing office, even though NWSTG is not issuing the TAF.

2. Discussion

2.1 In the FASID TABLE MET 1A, Column 2 is defined as the ICAO location indicator of the aerodrome. Column 5 is defined as the ICAO location indicator of the responsible meteorological office. In accordance with ICAO practice, the LOCID for the aerodrome cannot be used by the meteorological forecast office unless the office is located at the aerodrome. In the U.S., the NWS weather forecast offices (WFO) are not located on the aerodrome. They are off the airport and provide multiple services, one of them being the issuance of a TAF. Also, one WFO may have responsibility for several aerodromes.

2.2 For example, the Honolulu International Airport has the LOCID PHNL. The NWS uses PHNL for the TAF to denote the TAF for the aerodrome. However, the WFO is not on the aerodrome and in accordance with Table MET 1A, there is a requirement to provide the LOCID for the responsible MET Office in Column 5. In addition to issuing the TAF for PHNL, the WFO also has responsibility to provide a TAF for other aerodromes in the Pacific Region. Therefore, the LOCID for the responsible for

MET office is denoted as KWBC to avoid conflicting with the LOCID for the aerodrome. In Column 4 of the Table MET 1A, users of the FASID for aerodromes under US responsibility will see NWS Honolulu WFO as the responsible MET office and the associated LOCID will be KWBC.

2.3 KWBC refers to the National Weather Service Tele-Communications Gateway (NWSTG) where the collectives for the TAF are assembled and then disseminated as part of OPMET exchange. Use of KWBC identifies the collective as being built at the NWSTG. Users need to be aware that KWBC is just a naming convention for the LOCID. The responsible WFO is identified in Column 4 of Table MET 1A.

3. **Conclusion**

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information in this paper.