



International Civil Aviation Organization
CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS)
Tenth Meeting of the GREPECAS Aeronautical Meteorology Subgroup
(AERMETSG/10)
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 19 to 23 October 2009

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS)

- c) **review the status of implementation and utilization of the WAFS products**

REPORT OF THE ISCS OPERATIONAL EFFICACY

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

This paper highlights the ISCS help desk, and covers the statistics and analysis from the CARSAM Survey of the Operational Efficacy of ISCS/2 Broadcast from 1 May 2008 - 31 January 2009.

1. Introduction

1.1 Earlier this year the Regional ICAO office in Mexico provided the ISCS program office with the results of the 2008-09 survey for ISCS in CARSAM. This paper provides an overview of this information. Included is contact information for the ISCS help desk.

2. Discussion

2.1 Help Desk

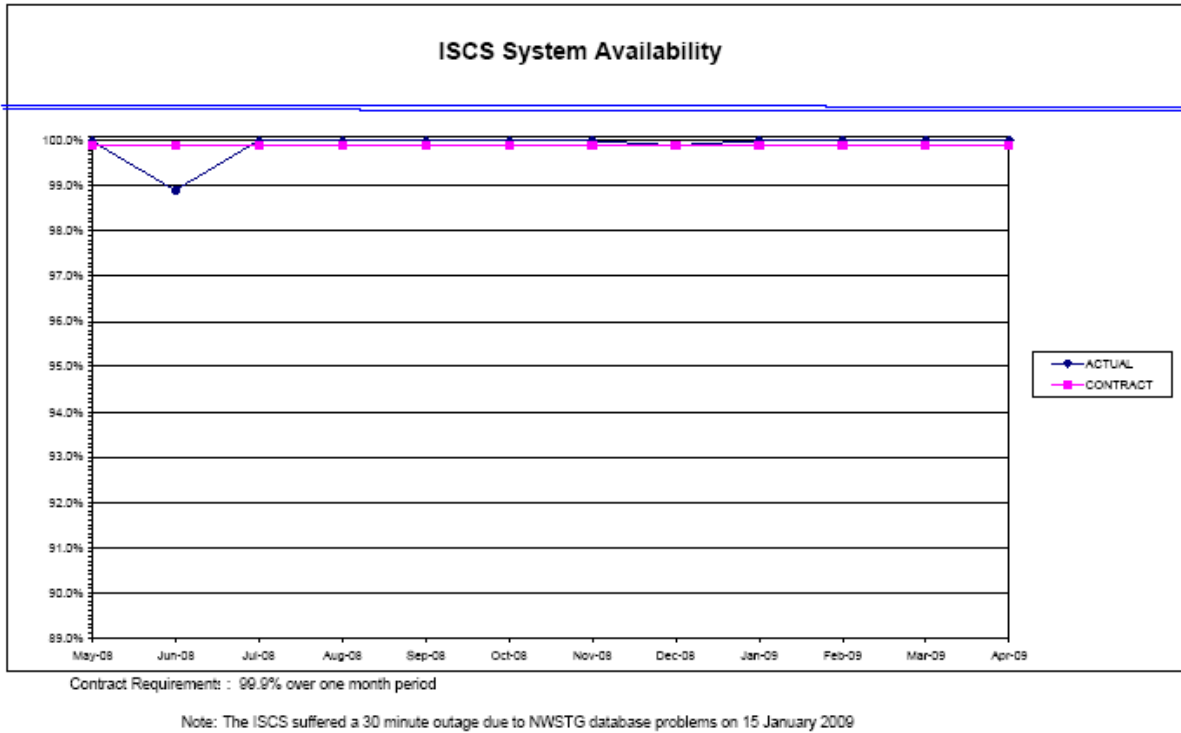
2.1.1 The U.S. National Weather Service (NWS) Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) operates the ISCS Help Desk 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Approximately 6 of the 21 sites that responded to this survey requested assistance from the help desk.

2.1.2 ISCS users can find information on how to report problems related to the reception of WAFS data at: <http://www.weather.gov/iscs/trouble.htm>. This site also contains an installation and troubleshooting guide for the VSAT receiver, satellite modem and antenna.

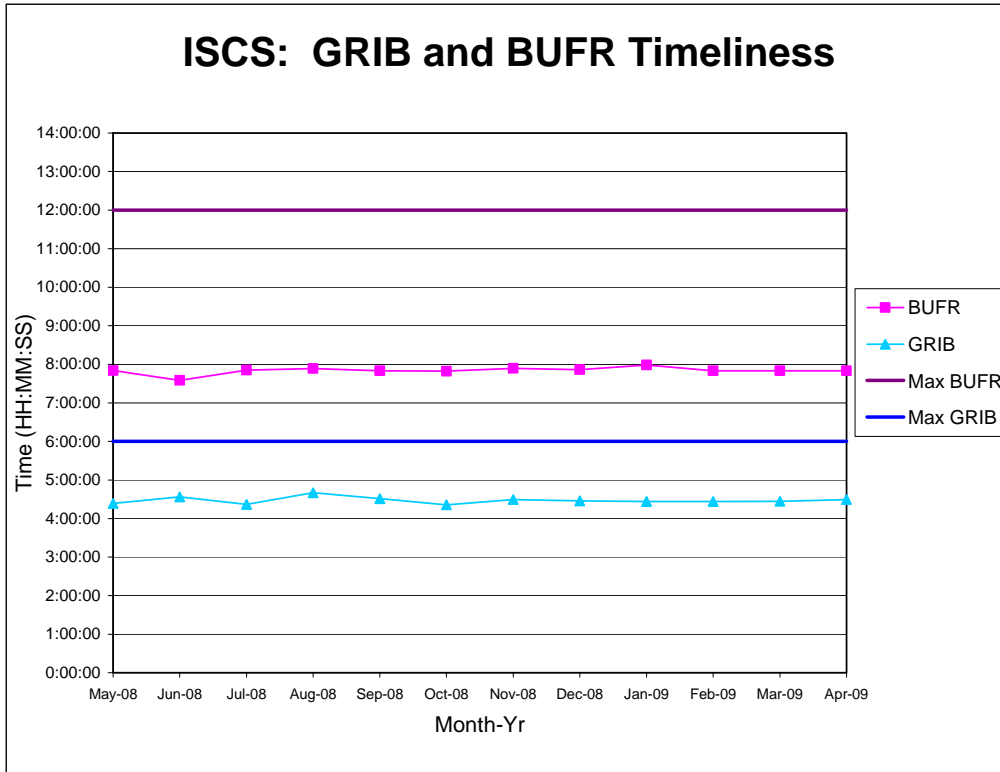
2.1.3 ISCS users without access to the Internet may report problems by calling the ISCS Help Desk at 1-301-713-0902 or by sending a FAX to 1-301-587-1773. Though as noted by the Mexico Regional Office, all sites responding to this survey had an internet connection.

2.2 ISCS Operation Statistics

2.2.1 During the 12 months from April 2008 through April 2009 ISCS was available over 99.99% of the time (Figure 1). The 99.9% availability requirement was exceeded in every month except June 2008.



2.2.2 During the 12 months from April 2008 through April 2009 the ISCS fully met the ICAO Annex 3 requirement for timely broadcast of GRIB-1 products within 6 hours of the initial synoptic time, and BUFR SIGWX products no later than 12 hours before its validity time.



2.3 Discussion of Survey results

2.3.1 It should be noted that only approximately 21 of 45 CARSAM States responded to the survey. The analyses of the completed questionnaires indicate the following results:

- 73% of States considered that the service administrative messages were acceptable;
- 80% of States reported acceptable availability of upper-air data in the GRIB code form;
- 75% of States reported acceptable availability of SIGWX data in the BUFR code form;
- 80% of States reported acceptable availability of OPMET messages;
- 91% of States reported acceptable VSAT signal quality;
- 91% of States reported an acceptable overall assessment of the VSAT;
- 33% of States reported they used the internet (ftp), through the US NWS.

2.3.2 The specific items below are for follow-up:

- ISCS workstations of Dominican Republic Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua are out of service;
- COROBOR ISCS workstation of Saint Lucia, occasionally does not receive WAFS products;
- MET LAB ISCS workstation of Guatemala and Belize submits OPMET data but, frequently, does not receive them in the WAFS broadcast;
- The WAFS workstation of Honduras receives information but is partially damaged so that it is disabled to transmit data;
- Haiti is disseminating their METARs and TAFs via internet using the E-mail Data Input System of NWS/NOAA;
- Nicaragua is conducting tests to disseminate their METARs and TAFs via internet using the E-mail Data Input System;
- CARICOM Island States have WAFS workstations at their Met offices but do not have AFTN terminals...Possible EDIS solution;
- All meteorological offices in the CAR Region have an internet terminal;
- Saint Lucia has recently requested ICAO information on the EDIS of NWS/NOAA.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

3.1.1 Note the information provided in this working paper.

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