International Civil Aviation Organization

NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (MET SG/19) OF APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 6 August 2015

Agenda Item 6: **Research, development and implementation issues in the MET field**

6.3) Forecasts, advisories and warnings

GRAPHICAL SIGMET MONITOR

(Presented by New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of the new Graphical SIGMET Monitor (GSM), which graphically displays SIGMETs issued for the New Zealand Flight Information Region (NZZC) and the Auckland Oceanic Flight Information Region (NZZO).

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Graphical SIGMET Monitor (GSM) product, developed by the Meteorological Service of New Zealand (MetService) and the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAANZ), is a graphical representation of SIGMETs and is provided in addition to text-based messages. Two GSMs are provided, one for the NZZC (New Zealand) FIR and one for the NZZO (Auckland Oceanic) FIR. The southern limit of the NZZO GSM is latitude 60S, but text-based NZZO SIGMETs will be provided as necessary for hazardous weather phenomena south of 60S.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1   The GSM allows users to visualize polygon based SIGMETs within each of the NZZC and NZZO FIRs, i.e., users will be able to "monitor" all current SIGMETs issued for each FIR. GSMs will not be amended. A new GSM will be issued each time a new textual SIGMET is issued or cancelled, so there will never be more than one GSM valid for each FIR at any particular time.

2.2   The validity of each GSM will run from the earliest start time of any of the SIGMETs displayed, until the latest end time of the SIGMETs displayed. For example, if the beginning of the validity period for the earliest SIGMET displayed is 0400Z and the end of the validity period for the latest SIGMET is 1100Z, the GSM validity will be 0400Z to 1100Z.

2.3   SIGMETs will be displayed as polygons on each GSM, using established meteorological symbols and movement (direction arrows and speed). Volcanic ash and tropical cyclone SIGMETs will not be displayed on the GSM as polygons, but the location of the volcano or tropical cyclone will be shown at the actual location in the GSM using the normal volcano and tropical cyclone symbols. For volcanoes located outside the NZZC or NZZO FIR (but where ash has entered the FIR), a separate box will provide details of the volcano and direct users to the appropriate text-based product. Examples of the NZZC and NZZO GSMs are presented in Appendix A of this paper.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

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

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APPENDIX A – NZZC AND NZZO GSM EXAMPLES
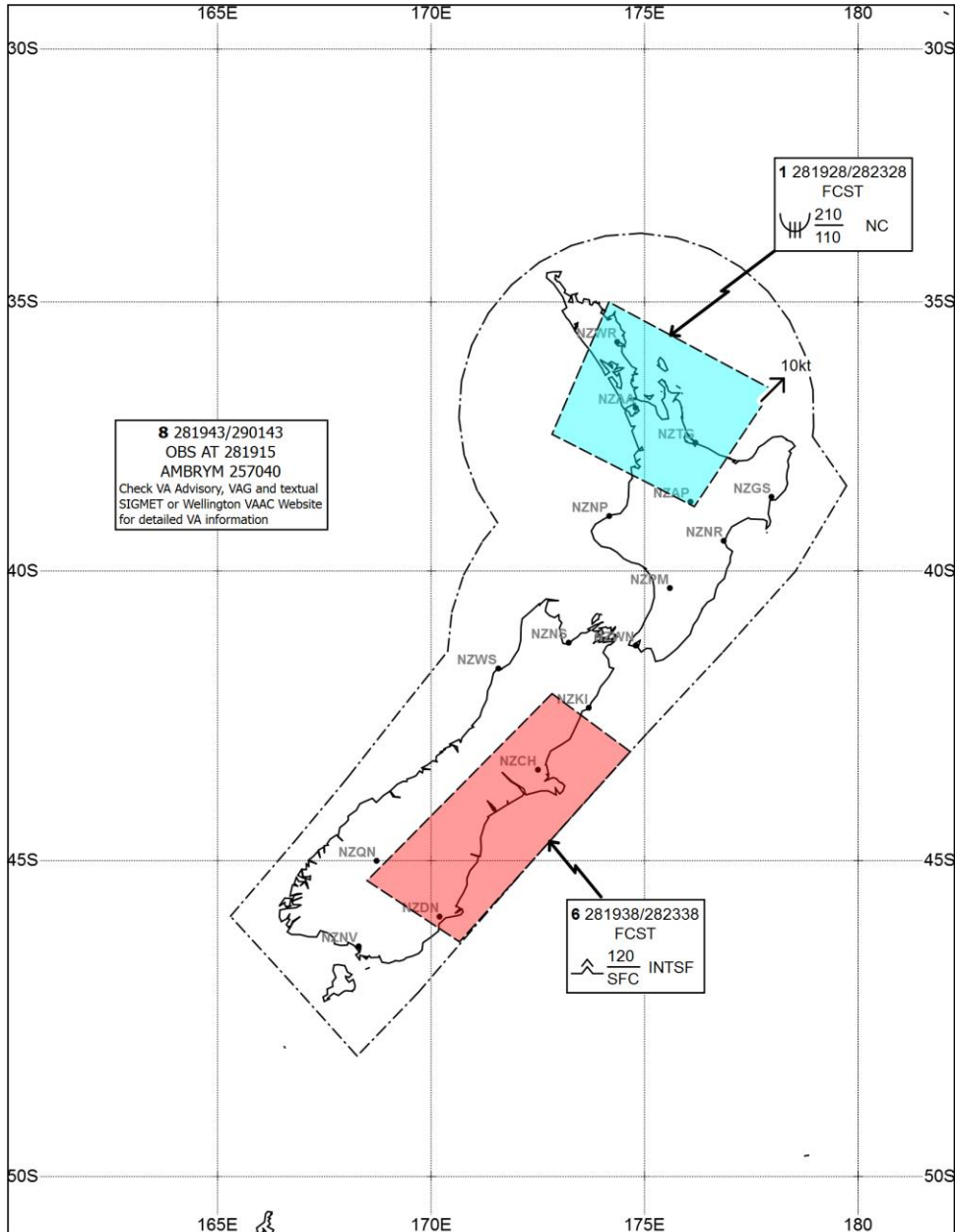
GRAPHICAL SIGMET MONITOR - NZZO
Provided by MetService New Zealand
SIGMETS SFC-FL630 NZZO FIR
ISSUED AT 0100 UTC 29 JUN 2015
VALIDITY 290013/290700

Refer to individual textual SIGMETs for detailed flight planning purposes.

SIGMETs south of 60S not provided in graphical form.
For SIGMETs in the NZZC FIR, refer to GRAPHICAL SIGMET MONITOR - NZZC.

SEVERE WEATHER SYMBOLS

ICING
TURBULENCE
RADIO ACTIVITY
MOUNTAIN WAVES
AIREP POSITION
THUNDERSTORM
VOLCANIC ASH
TROPICAL CYCLONE

5 290100/290700
TC OLAF
OBS AT 290000
Check TC Advisory, TCG and textual SIGMET for detailed TC information

1 290013/290413
FCST   NC
260
140
15kt

3 290058/290658
OBS AT 290030
RAOUL ISLAND 242030
Check VA Advisory, VAG and textual SIGMET or Wellington VAAC Website for detailed VA information