



International Civil Aviation Organization

**THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL OPMET  
BULLETIN EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP (ROBEX WG/13)**

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 16 – 18 March 2015

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**Agenda Item 4: OPMET exchange**

**TAF BULLETIN FILING TIME**

(Presented by Australia)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents a review of the definition of TAF bulletin filing time and recommends that ASIA/PAC ANP, ROBEX Handbook and RODB procedures be aligned with ICAO Annex 3.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Regional Operational Meteorological (OPMET) Bulletin Exchange (ROBEX) scheme was established to efficiently and effectively manage the exchange of OPMET information throughout the region. The ASIA/Pacific (ASIA/PAC) ROBEX Handbook (HB) defines the content and issue times of each message exchanged within region.

1.2 Recent changes to Annex 3 have resulted in potential disconnect between the issuance times of TAFs and issuance of routine TAF bulletins by Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs).

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The ROBEX HB 5.2.5 and 7.3.4 states that “*The filing time of the bulletins should be according to Annex 3, Appendix 10, 2.1.2*” and “*The filing time for 24- and 30-hour TAF bulletins should be one hour before the start of the validity period*”, respectively.

2.2 Historically Annex 3 did not specify the issuance times of TAFs, however Annex 3, Appendix 10, 2.1.2 did state that “*TAFs should be filed for transmission at least one hour before the commencement of their period of validity*”. At this time Annex 3 and ROBEX Handbook (HB) were well aligned.

2.3 However, the introduction of Amendment 76 to Annex 3 in 2013 changed the issuance times of TAFs. Annex 3 - 6.2.2 now states that “*an aerodrome forecast shall be issued at a specified time not earlier than one hour prior to the beginning of its validity period and consist of a concise statement of the expected meteorological conditions at an aerodrome for a specified period*”. Annex 3, Appendix 10, 2.1.2 was also updated to state “*TAF should be filed for transmission not earlier than one hour prior to the beginning of their validity period*”.

2.4 As a result of the change to Annex 3, many States now issue TAFs less than 1 hour before validity however the filing time of many bulletins have not been amended to reflect the change in issuance times of TAFs by the Meteorological Watch Office/s within the State. As a result many bulletins now contain a TAF NIL for these aerodromes where these shorter lead time TAFs are issued and an amendment has not been recently issued (See Attachment 1).

2.5 The ROBEX HB 7.4.5 states “A missing TAF in a TAF bulletin should be indicated with “NIL”, as shown in the following example:  
*TAF VTBD 281000Z NIL=*”

2.5 When a TAF is later issued (typically within 30 minutes) an amended TAF bulletin is issued in accordance with ROBEX HB Appendix E.

2.6 The current disconnect between ICAO Annex 3 and the ROBEX HB is resulting in the sending of many unnecessary TAF NIL’s and amended TAF bulletins which is neither effective or efficient.

2.7 It is therefore proposed that filing times of TAF bulletins within the ROBEX HB be reviewed and aligned with each States issuance of TAFs.

2.8 The draft ASIA/PAC Air Navigation Plan (ANP) also states that “*The filing time of the TAF bulletins should be one hour before the start of the period of validity. [APANPIRG/19 Con. 19/46]*”. It is also recommended that ASIA/PAC ANP be updated according to Attachment 2.

### **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note of the information provided;
- b) consider the proposed text to ASIA/PAC ANP in the attachment;
- c) consider aligning the ROBEX HB definition of filing time with Annex 3; and
- d) consider requesting the RODB’s to review the filing time of all TAF bulletins and where appropriate update the filing time within ROBEX HB Appendix B.

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ATTACHMENT 1 – SAMPLE FTAU31 BULLETINS OVER 6 HOURS

GG YBZZSVYX  
050500 YBBBZEZX  
FTAU31 YBBN 050500  
TAF YPAD 050500Z NIL=  
TAF YBBN 050500Z NIL=  
TAF YPDN 050500Z NIL=  
TAF AMD YMML 050437Z 0504/0606  
19015G25KT 9999 FEW045  
BECMG 0508/0510 26010KT 9999 SCT035  
FM051900 27012KT 9999 -SHRA BKN020  
BECMG 0523/0601 24015G25KT 9999 -SHRA FEW015 BKN025  
INTER 0601/0606 5000 SHRA BKN015  
RMK=  
TAF YPPH 050500Z NIL=  
TAF YSSY 050500Z NIL=

GG YBZZSVYX  
050510 YBBBZEZX  
FTAU31 YBBN 050500 RRA  
TAF YPAD 050503Z 0506/0612  
21017KT CAVOK  
FM051000 18008KT CAVOK  
FM051400 21010KT 9999 SCT025  
FM060100 21012KT CAVOK  
FM061000 16010KT 9999 FEW025  
RMK=

GG YBZZSVYX  
050520 YBBBZEZX  
FTAU31 YBBN 050500 RRB  
TAF YPDN 050517Z 0506/0612  
32010KT 9999 SCT025  
FM051000 27007KT 9999 SCT020  
FM060200 32010KT 9999 SCT025  
PROB30 TEMPO 0605/0612 VRB25G40KT 1000 TSRA BKN010 SCT020CB  
RMK=  
TAF YSSY 050518Z 0506/0612  
16020G30KT 9999 FEW030  
FM050900 17012KT CAVOK  
FM051500 29008KT CAVOK  
FM052300 25015KT CAVOK  
FM060300 10010KT CAVOK  
RMK FM050600 MOD TURB BLW 5000FT TILL051200=

GG YBZZSVYX  
050525 YBBBZEZX  
FTAU31 YBBN 050500 AAA  
TAF AMD YBBN 050525Z 0506/0612

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10/03/15

01014KT CAVOK

FM051000 14015G25KT 9999 SCT025

FM051400 15014KT 9999 -SHRA SCT025 SCT050

FM051600 19007KT 9999 -SHRA SCT025 SCT050

FM060000 08010KT 9999 SCT035 SCT060

RMK FM050900 MOD TURB BLW 5000FT TILL051400=

GG YBZZSVYX

050530 YBBBZEZX

FTAU31 YBBN 050500 RRC

TAF YPPH 050523Z 0506/0612

08012KT CAVOK

RMK=

GG YBZZSVYX

050535 YBBBZEZX

FTAU31 YBBN 050500 AAB

TAF AMD YBBN 050535Z 0506/0612

01017KT CAVOK

FM051000 14015G25KT 9999 SCT025

FM051400 15014KT 9999 -SHRA SCT025 SCT050

FM051600 19007KT 9999 -SHRA SCT025 SCT050

FM060000 08010KT 9999 SCT035 SCT060

RMK FM050900 MOD TURB BLW 5000FT TILL051400=

ATTACHMENT 2 – PROPOSED CHANGE TO ASIA/PAC ANP

9. TAF should be issued, at intervals of six hours, with the period of validity beginning at one of the main synoptic hours (00, 06, 12, 18 UTC). The period of validity should be of 24 or 30 hours to meet the requirements indicated in FASID Table MET 1A. The filing time of the TAF bulletins should be less than one hour before the start of the period of validity.  
[APANPIRG/19 Con. 19/46]