



**Twenty First Meeting of the Africa-Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group
(APIRG/21)
(Nairobi, Kenya, 9 – 11 October 2017)**

Agenda Item 5: Regional Air Navigation Deficiencies

REVIEW OF THE REPORT ON SIGMET TESTS CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER 2016

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY
<p>SIGMET tests have been conducted in the AFI region on annual basis since 2008 with the purpose of checking the awareness of the participating MWOs of the ICAO requirements for the issuance of SIGMET, and the adequacy of the existing telecommunication procedures for dissemination of the advisories and SIGMETs.</p> <p>This paper reviews the report on the AFI SIGMET Tests conducted in November 2016.</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 3 • AFI Regional SIGMET Guide
<p>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Navigation Capacity and efficiency

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting may recall that SIGMET Warning is of the highest priority among other types of meteorological information provided to the aviation users.

1.2 The meeting may further recall that Annex 3 provides that SIGMET information shall be issued by a meteorological watch office (MWO) and shall give a concise description in abbreviated plain language concerning and/expected occurrence of specified en-route weather phenomena, which may affect the safety of operations, and of the development of those phenomena in time and space. It also provides the required technical specifications relating to the preparation and issuance of SIGMET.

1.3 The Annex further recommends that SIGMET messages concerning volcanic ash cloud and tropical cyclones be based on advisory information provided by VAACs and TCACs, respectively designated by regional air navigation agreement. APIRG has designated VAAC, Toulouse and TCAC, La reunion as the AFI as AFI advisory centers for volcanic ash and tropical cyclones respectively.

1.4 The meeting may also recall that, following concerns by users, the MET Divisional Meeting (2002) formulated recommendation 1/12 b), urging for period tests of SIGMET messages to be conducted.

1.5 SIGMET tests have been conducted in the AFI region on annual basis since 2008.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The latest SIGMET tests were was conducted in November 2016, for tropical cyclone (WC), volcanic ash (WV) and for other significant weather (WS). The tests report is attached at Appendix A to this paper.

2.2 The report shows that only 5 MWOs have never issued any SIGMET during AFI SIGMET Tests which is an improvement.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper.
- b) Urge States to participate in the annual AFI SIGMET tests and endeavor to meet their obligation regarding issuance and dissemination of SIGMETs

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