



International Civil Aviation Organization

**MIDANPIRG Meteorology Sub-Group
Fourth Meeting (MET SG/4)**

(Cairo, Egypt, 25 – 27 June 2013)

Agenda Item 3: Review of Recent and Forthcoming Global Developments

**OUTCOMES FROM THE AERODROME METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND
FORECAST STUDY GROUP (AMOFSG)**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The ninth meeting of the Aerodrome Meteorological Observation and Forecast Study Group (AMOFSG/9, 26 to 30 September 2012, Montréal) produced actions agreed that may be of interest to the Region and provided in brief in this paper.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ninth meeting of the Aerodrome Meteorological Observation and Forecast Study Group (AMOFSG/9, 26 to 30 September 2012, Montréal) produced actions agreed that may be of interest to the Region and provided in brief in this paper. The summary of discussions, which provides more details, is provided at the following link: <http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/amofsg/Lists/Meetings/AllItems.aspx>.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The AMOFSG/9 developed numerous proposals to modify Annex 3 (as part of draft Amendment 76) relating to:

- the requirements for meteorological information by operators;
- the naming and location of meteorological offices;
- reporting domain for cloud in local reports;
- reporting of gusts in local special reports and SPECI;
- averaging period for evaluating gusts in local reports;
- the assessment height for runway visual range (RVR);
- the SPECI criteria for RVR;
- the use of the terms runway visual range and RVR;
- the reporting of variations in RVR;

- the need for reporting recent weather in local reports and METAR/SPECI where local special reports and SPECI are issued;
- the criteria for moderate and heavy sandstorm/duststorm;
- the reporting of present weather by automatic observing systems;
- the inclusion of significant wave height in the supplementary information of METAR/SPECI;
- the removal of “ice crystals” as a present weather element;
- the formatting of cloud information in local reports and METAR/SPECI;
- the issuance of TAF less than one hour before its validity period commences;
- the operational issuance of take-off forecasts; and
- editorial issues concerned with referencing and footnotes.

2.2 The group also proposed to develop guidance material to support:

- the siting and operations of meteorological instruments at aerodromes;
- the use and benefits of an array of ceilometers at aerodromes;
- the calculation of crosswind and tailwind components;
- criteria used for obstacle induced wind disturbances;
- the reporting of marked discontinuities in RVR;
- the reporting of undetected cloud where thunderstorms are detected in the vicinity by automatic systems;
- the validity period of amended TAF, the representation of midnight in meteorological products;
- and the provision of winds aloft information.

2.3 Other issues the group discussed and will report back on include: operating minima suggested in Doc 9365; volcanic ash reporting issues; user requirements for the reporting of vertical visibility and intermittent precipitation; the trial of trend forecasts in the Netherlands; and the assessment of the Annex 11 provisions relating to ATIS information.

2.4 Outcomes from the tenth meeting of the Aerodrome Meteorological Observation and Forecast Study Group (AMOFSG/10, 17 to 19 June 2013, Montréal) are expected to produce actions agreed. If the report is available at the time of the meeting, the meeting may note the executive summary that would be posted at <http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/amofsg/Pages/default.aspx>.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the contents of this paper.