



International Civil Aviation Organization

AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE FIRST MEETING (MTF/1)

(Dakar, Senegal, 19 – 20 October 2009)

Agenda Item 2: Review of the AFI Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (AMBEX)

2.1: Review of the requirements for OPMET information exchange in AFI and adjacent regions and procedures for exchange of all required OPMET data type: SA, SP, FC, FT, WS, WC, WV, FK, FV, UA

(Presented by I'ASECNA)

Summary

This paper presents the state of implementation of the collection, the compilation and the distribution of OPMET data in the ASECNA member states. It gives the difficulties and proposes improvement in the exchange of OPMET bulletins in AFI region.

2.1.2. Functioning of the OPMET data provider centres

2.1.2.1. METAR or SPECI produced by AOP or non AOP in ASECNA member States are collected by the national OPMET data collection centres. However the collection is still made by means of BLU in most of the stations. The information relative to the opening and closing time and the frequency of observations is not updated in the normative document of the WMO (Volume A). Since July 2009, ASECNA began an awareness campaign of its member states on this subject. This update should be taken into account by MET/SG and APIRG.

2.1.2.2. When a SPECI coincides with a METAR at an observation time, SPECI is transmitted first followed by METAR, to allow an automatic compilation without error in the COM centres of the NOC.

2.1.2.3. In the ASECNA network, sixteen (16) main centres over seventeen (17) provide 30H TAF. The main center of Bissau and all secondary meteorological centres of the network are not ready for 30H TAF. However, this situation will be corrected as soon as possible.

2.1.2.4. ASECNA has specially introduced a warning message called AVISIG to help SIGMET centres under the header WXAA39 CCCC YYGGgg. This AVISIG is provided by non SIGMET of the FIR.

2.1.2.5. The SIGMET Guide has been very helpful for the exploitation of SIGMET messages in the ASECNA controlled space. However, various SIGMET addressees are not clearly defined. It is necessary, as in the case of AMBEX, to define the scattering of these messages.

2.1.3. Functioning of the National Centres of data collection OPMET (NOC)

2.1.3.3. ASECNA has eight (8) national centres which can make automatic compilation of OPMET data. The remaining nine (9) centres will be done in its 2009 – 2013 Services and Equipments Plan.

2.1.3.4. It is useful to complete Appendixes of AMBEX Manuel to provide information about various bulletins and OPMET programs from NOC and BCC. In ASECNA centres, three bulletins are generally provided:

- METAR or SPECI (SAAA20 CCCC or SPAA20 CCCC) containing a single station;
- METAR or SPECI (SAAA21 CCCC or SPAA21 CCCC) containing aerodromes of the SADIS program ;
- National bulletin (SAAA40 CCCC SPAA40 CCCC) containing all METAR required at the national level.

2.1.3.5. When a SPECI is received simultaneously with a national METAR bulletin, ASECNA's message switches cannot treat both messages at once; because of the TT are different (SA for METAR and SP for SPECI). However, the SPECI is automatically forwarded to the specified destination.

2.1.3.6. In ASECNA, the NOC transmits a national collective message containing all the required TAF.

2.1.3.7. Several OPMET messages do not reach the main destination (forecaster) due to COM procedures and equipments. Therefore, it is necessary to attribute an AFTN normalized address to the forecaster office. In ASECNA, the following address: CCCCPRVI is temporarily retained for the forecaster's office in the aerodrome.

2.1.4. Functioning of the Centres of Compilation of Bulletins AMBEX (BCC)

2.1.4.2. To take into account aerodromes contained in AMBEX bulletins and to avoid the mixture between 30H TAF and 24H TAF, it is recommended to represent both TAF messages in the same bulletin with 30H TAF first and 24H TAF after. In the mean time, "NIL" shall not be included in the AMBEX bulletin but in the NOC's.

2.1.5. For the full need of all users of the Regional OPMET Data Bank (BRDO), it is necessary to make the statistics of OPMET available.

2.1.6. Action by the meeting

The meeting is invited to:

- a) Acquaint with the contents of the present;
- b) Make comments and formulate appropriate recommendations.