



**International Civil Aviation Organization**

**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)  
METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP EIGHTH MEETING**

(Nairobi, Kenya, 25-27 June 2007)

**Agenda Item 5: Provision of tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisories for the AFI Region**

*Development of procedures for monitoring and management of OPMET exchange – SIGMET tests for tropical cyclones (TC) and volcanic ash (VA)*

*(Presented by Secretariat)*

**SUMMARY**

This paper present procedures to be adopted in the AFI Region for conducting regular SIGMET tests for tropical cyclones and volcanic ash and the need for training in the issuance of SIGMET in general.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The MET Divisional Meeting (2002) formulated Recommendation 1/12-*Implementation of SIGMET requirements*, which *inter alia*, called for the relevant planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs) to conduct periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages especially for volcanic ash.

1.2 The Secretariat of ICAO Regional Offices in the AFI region have found out during mission to States, that most States do not comply with the requirements of Annex 3 on issuance of SIGMETs if at all they issue them. It is observed that lack of training might be the contributing factor.

1.3 Tropical cyclones occur seasonally over the South-West Indian Ocean basic which affects some AFI States. Volcanic activity occur in certain parts of the region, with the most active being over the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Comoros, Cameroon and La Réunion. These phenomena invariably do not occur all the time in spite of being a hazard to aviation requiring proactiveness on the part of aeronautical meteorologist, prompting the issuance of SIGMET. There is therefore a tendency not to give the issuance of SIGMET the priority it deserves.

1.4 In order to improve on the existing state of affairs, the Sub-Group may wish to develop procedures for exchange of SIGMETs and conduct regular SIGMET tests.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The purpose of the tests will be to check the awareness of the participating meteorological watch offices (MWOs) of the ICAO requirements for issuance of VA and TC SIGMETs and the adequacy of the existing telecommunications procedures for dissemination of the advisories and SIGMETs.

2.2 The tests would involve issuance of the test advisories by the volcanic ash advisory centre (VAAC) – Toulouse and tropical cyclone advisory centre - La Réunion which would be disseminated to the corresponding MWOs and Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs) of Dakar and Pretoria. The MWOs would then issue a test SIGMET on receipt of a test advisory from the responsible VAAC or TCAC and disseminate according to the distribution list used for normal (non-test) SIGMETs. The RODBs would then record the reception of test SIGMETs and the corresponding time and provide summary tables to the VAAC or TCAC with copy to the ICAO AFI Regional offices.

2.3 In view of the above the sub-group may wish to develop the following conclusion:

**Conclusion 8/... Adoption of procedures for conducting SIGMET tests and workshops on SIGMET for the AFI Region.**

**That:**

- a) **The procedures at the Appendix be adopted for use in SIGMETs tests in the AFI Region; and**
- b) **ICAO Regional offices conduct two training workshops on SIGMET during 2008; one in English and another in French in the Region.**

## 3. Action by the Meeting

3.1 The meeting is invited to note:

- a) Information provided in this paper;
- b) Adopt the procedures for the SIGMETs tests; and
- c) Endorse the need for SIGMETs workshops in the region (English and French).

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