



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC ROBEX  
WORKING GROUP (ROBEX WG/11) & THIRD MEETING OF  
METEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS TASK FORCE (MET/H TF/3)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 11 – 15 March 2013

**Agenda Item C2: SIGMET**

**c) Review SIGMET Guide**

**UPDATE ON SIGMET GUIDE**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper describes the update process for the Asia/Pacific SIGMET Guide and provides a summary of the last amendments published in September/October 2012 as well as the discussion of possible updates for the next amendment.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Asia/Pacific SIGMET Guide, Fourth Edition — September 2007, is available at the following website: <http://www.bangkok.icao.int/edocs/index.html>. The main purpose of this document is to provide guidance for standardization and harmonization of the procedures and formats related SIGMET information. The guidance is complementary to the Annex 3 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) regarding SIGMET and to the SIGMET related provisions of the Regional Air Navigation Plan.

1.2 The SIGMET Guide is prepared by the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office and it is reviewed and updated regularly in order to be kept in line with the relevant ICAO SARPs and regional procedures including SIGMET test instructions and changes associated with Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) as provided by States.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The SIGMET Guide was last amended following discussions at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF/10), held in Bangkok from 17 to 19 April 2012, in coordination with the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Meteorological Advisories and Warnings Implementation Task Force (METWARN/I TF/2), held in Bangkok from 19 to 20 April 2012.

2.2 The meeting may wish to review the last amendments to the SIGMET Guide published in September/October 2012, which are listed in **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2** of this paper.

2.3 The meeting is reminded of the review of regional SIGMET Guides conducted by the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Meteorological Warnings Study Group (METWSG/4), held in Montréal from 15 to 18 May 2012, which noted several inconsistencies between two ICAO regional SIGMET guides, namely those for the European region and Asia/Pacific regions. The METWSG agreed that a comprehensive review of all regional SIGMET guides should be carried out noting that these guides generally contained generic information (which would not vary regionally) and specific information pertaining to the communications and other needs of each region (METWSG/4 Action Agreed 4/3 refers).

2.4 The meeting is invited to note that the work of the METWSG ad-hoc group tasked with developing generic guidance on the issuance of SIGMET for each ICAO Region has made some progress in terms of the structure of a template for a (generic) SIGMET guide. A progress report should be made available to METWSG Members by 15 March 2013 for consideration at the METWSG/5 in June 2013.

2.5 Furthermore, the meeting is also reminded of APANPIRG/22 – Conclusion 22/44, adopted in September 2011 (CNS/MET SG/15 draft Conclusion 15/32 also refers), to provide guidance in relation to volcanic eruptions that resulted in the ash plumes dissipating within a few hours following the eruptions. Amendment 76 to Annex 3, which was developed to include a provision (in Table A6-1) that would allow for the reporting of ‘NO VA EXP’ (decode: no volcanic ash expected) in the forecast part of a SIGMET message, has subsequently been adopted by Council and will become applicable in November 2013. Therefore there is a requirement for an example in the Asia/Pacific SIGMET Guide to report a situation when no ash is expected in the forecast section of a SIGMET.

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

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss the updates required to the SIGMET Guide in 2013; and
- c) decide on the date and the updates to be included in the next amendment of the SIGMET Guide.

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**Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide – list of updates for 2012 – 28 September 2012**

Section	Paragraph	Details of changes	Purpose of changes	References
Part 3	3.1.6	“... The <del>inclusion of the moderate category in the</del> reporting of turbulence and icing used in special air-reports <del>will commence with Amendment 75 to Annex 3 (Table A4 2 of Appendix 4 and Table A6 1 of Appendix 6). This includes both severe and moderate categories, which ...</del> ”	Remove redundant references to Amendment 75 to Annex 3	METWARN/I TF, OPMET/M TF/10
	3.4.5.2	“... , NN is used for the TC name. The reference NN <del>replaces</del> is used (instead of NIL) <del>in Amendment 75 to Annex 3</del> to avoid confusion by the users.”		
Appendix G	1.2	“...is to be issued (FCST AT <GGgg>Z <del>in accordance with Amendment 75 to Annex 3</del> ): ...”		
Appendix H	Table	ICAO location indicator “ <del>YDRM</del> YPDM” for MWO location “Darwin”	Align with FASID MET Table 1B	
Appendix F	2.	“In describing lines or polygons, the lat-/long values of the respective points are separated by the combination space-hyphen-space, as in the following examples: ...”	Corrigenda	Email liaison with ROBEX WG (Aug-Sep 2012)
Appendix I	Table	WMO Heading “FVPS01-05 ...” for NZKL	Corrigendum	
Appendix J	2.2	“... Therefore, for the WC and WV SIGMET tests the issuance of TEST SIGMET by the MWO should normally be triggered by a test advisory issued by the respective TCAC or VAAC.”	Enable test SIGMET to be issued in cases where test advisory is not received	
	2.3	“The Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODB) and World Area Forecast Centres (WAFC) will monitor the dissemination by filing all TEST SIGMETs and advisories and the corresponding reception times...”	Specify WAFC participation in SIGMET tests	
	2.4	“... The results of the tests should be reported to the Conjoint meeting of the <del>OPMET/M TF</del> Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange Working Group (ROBEX WG) and <del>METWARN/I TF</del> Meteorological Hazards Task Force (MET/H TF) and to the <del>CNS/MET</del> Meteorology Sub-group (MET SG) meetings.”	Align with the MET group name changes decided at CNS/MET SG/16 and APANPIRG/22	
	3.1.1.4	“... <del>3) MWOs in MID Region under TCAC New Delhi plan to participate in WC SIGMET test (10 November 2010)</del> ”	Remove redundant reference to SIGMET test 2010	METWARN/I TF, OPMET/M TF/10
	3.1.1.5	“ <del>World Area Forecast Centres (WAFC): London, Washington</del> ”	Specify WAFC participation in SIGMET tests	Email liaison with ROBEX

Section	Paragraph	Details of changes	Purpose of changes	References
	3.1.2.1, 3.1.2.2, 3.1.2.3	“3.1.2.1 ... The structure of the TEST advisories should follow the standard format given in Annex 3 with indication that it is a test message as shown <del>on pages J-7 and J-8</del> in <b>Section 4</b> of these procedures.” “3.1.2.2 ...” “3.1.2.3 ... The WMO heading and the first line of the SIGMET should be valid ones, while the body of the message should contain only explanatory note regarding the test in plain language, as shown <del>on pages J-7 and J-8</del> in <b>Section 4</b> of these procedures...”	Apply missing paragraph numbering; realign references to examples of test formats	WG (Aug-Sep 2012)
	3.1.2	“... <del>To avoid over writing of a valid SIGMET, a TEST SIGMET for VA or TC should not be sent in the case where there is a valid SIGMET of the same type for the MWO’s area of responsibility. However, in this case the responsible MWO should notify the WV/WC SIGMET test focal point as given in 3.4.3 so that they can be excluded from the analysis.</del> ”	Remove instructions that are no longer necessary because procedures to avoid over-writing of valid SIGMET are provided (see paragraphs 3.3-3.3.1.1)	
	3.2.1, 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2	“3.2.1 ...” “3.2.1.1 ...” “3.2.1.2 ...”	Realign paragraph numbering	
	3.2.1.2	“... <del>Notes: 2) that FASID Tables MET 1B is reproduced in the Regional SIGMET Guide:</del> <a href="http://www.bangkok.icao.int/edocs/sigmet_guide4.pdf">http://www.bangkok.icao.int/edocs/sigmet_guide4.pdf</a> ”	Corrigenda	
	3.2.1.3	“ <del>World Area Forecast Centres (WAFC): London, Washington</del> ”	Specify WAFC participation in SIGMET tests	
	3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.1.1	“3.2.2 ...” “3.2.2.1 ...” “3.2.2.2 ... The WMO heading and the first line of the SIGMET bulletin should be valid ones, while the body of the message should contain an explanatory text on the tests as shown <del>on pages J-7 and J-8</del> in <b>Section 4</b> of these procedures...” “3.2.43.1 ...” “3.2.43.1.1 ... <del>If a test SIGMET is not issued due to active SIGMET, please notify the SIGMET tests focal points below and the ICAO Regional Office, Bangkok</del> ”	Realign paragraph numbering; realign references to examples of test formats; move procedures to avoid over-writing of valid SIGMET into (3.3) common procedures for all test SIGMET; remove procedure that is no longer necessary due to use of Z99	

Section	Paragraph	Details of changes	Purpose of changes	References
	3.3.2, 3.3.2.1, 3.3.2.2, 3.3.2.3	“3.3.2 ...” “3.3.2.1 ...” “3.3.2.2 ...” “3.3.2.3 ...”	Realign paragraph numbering	
	3.3.3, 3.3.3.1,  3.3.3.2   3.3.3.3, 3.3.3.4, 3.3.4, 3.3.4.1	“3.3.3 ...” “3.3.3.1 All TEST TC/VA advisories should be sent by the TCACs and VAACs to the MWOs listed in FASID Tables MET 3A and 3B respectively, and also to the five ASIA/PAC RODBs and the two WAFCs. The AFTN addresses for the RODBs and WAFCs are listed in 3.3.3.2 below.” “3.3.3.2 All TEST SIGMETs and TC/VA advisories should be sent by the MWOs to the five ASIA/PAC RODBs. The AFTN addresses to be used by the MWOs, TCACs and VAACs are as follows and the two WAFCs at the following AFTN addresses: <u>RODBs</u> Bangkok                   VTBBYPYX Brisbane                   YBBBYPYX Nadi                         NFZZRFXX Singapore                 WSZZYPYM Tokyo                       RJTDYPYX <u>WAFCs</u> London                     EGZZMASI Washington               KWBCYMYX ...” “3.3.3.3 ...” “3.3.3.4 ...” “3.3.4 ...” “3.3.4.1 ...”	Realign paragraph numbering; clarify the distribution of test advisories by TCACs/VAACs and test SIGMETs by MWOs; include WAFCs in distribution of test advisory/test SIGMET	
	3.4.1	“The RODBs and WAFCs should file all incoming TEST advisories and SIGMETs and perform an analysis of the availability, timeliness of arrival and the correctness of the WMO bulletin headings. A SIGMET TEST Summary Table, as shown on page J-10 in Section 5 of these procedures, should be prepared by each RODB and WAFC and sent to the SIGMET test focal point given in section 3.4.3, with a copy to the ICAO Bangkok Regional Office.”	Specify WAFC participation in SIGMET tests; realign reference to example of test summary table	

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	3.4.2	“The SIGMET test focal points should prepare the final report of the test and present to the Regional Office. A summary report should be submitted to the next <del>CNS/MET Sub-group</del> ROBEX WG and MET SG meetings.”	Align with the MET group name changes decided at CNS/MET SG/16 and APANPIRG/22	
	3.4.3	<p>“<u>WS SIGMET summary table sent to:</u>  Ms. CHUA Guat Mui  <del>Principal</del> Chief Technical Officer  Weather Services Department  Meteorological Services Singapore ...”</p> <p>“<u>WV/WC SIGMET summary table sent to:</u>  <del>Mr. Osamu Hamada</del> Junichi Ishida (Mr)  ...  Tel: +81 (3) 3212 8341 <del>Ext.3351</del>  ...  e-mail: <del>e-hamada@met.kishou.go.jp</del> j-ishida@met.kishou.go.jp”</p> <p>“<u>ALL Summary Tables and any enquiries about SIGMET tests sent to:</u>  ICAO Regional Office, Bangkok  e-mail: icao_apac@bangkok.icao.int  cc: <del>—</del> ekeohan@bangkok.icao.int”</p>	Update contact details	METWARN/ITF, OPMET/MTF/10

Section	Paragraph	Details of changes	Purpose of changes	References
	4., 4.1, 4.2, 4.3,  4.4,  4.5,  5.	<p>“4. ...”</p> <p>“4.1 ...”</p> <p>“4.2 ...”</p> <p>“4.3 ... <i>Example:</i> WVJP31 RJTD 170205 RJJ SIGMET <del>Z99</del> VALID 170205/170215 RJTD- THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD. TEST VA ADVISORY NUMBER 1 RECEIVED AT 170200Z=”</p> <p>“4.4 ... <i>Example:</i> WCJP31 RJTD 100205 RJJ SIGMET <del>Z99</del> VALID 100205/100215 RJTD- THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD. TEST TCADVISORY NUMBER 1 RECEIVER AT 180200Z=”</p> <p>“4.5 ... <i>Example:</i> WSJP31 RJTD 240205 RJJ SIGMET <del>Z99</del> VALID 240205/240215 RJTD- THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD= ... 2) <del>Actual</del>Z99 SIGMET number to be used in all TEST SIGMETs”</p> <p>“5. ...”</p>	Realign paragraph numbering; specify the use of Z99 numbering for all test SIGMETs in examples and notes	Email liaison with ROBEX WG (Aug-Sep 2012)
Appendix K	all	New Appendix to include VAAC back-up procedures.	Improve regional guidance	METWARN/I
Appendix L	all	New Appendix to include VAAC back-up <u>test</u> procedures.	Improve regional guidance	TF, OPMET/M TF/10

**Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide – list of updates – 16 October 2012**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>Details of changes</b>	<b>Purpose of changes</b>	<b>References</b>
Appendix J	4.1	“... RMK: THIS IS A TEST VA ADVISORY. MWO SHOULD NOW ISSUE A TEST SIGMET FOR VA, <del>UNLESS THERE IS A VALID SIGMET FOR VA...</del> ”	To harmonize the sample test Advisory with 3.3.1, special procedure to use test SIGMET sequence number Z99 to avoid over-writing valid SIGMET of same type.	Email liaison with ROBEX WG (also endorsed by CNS/MET SG/15, July 2011)
	4.2	“... RMK: THIS IS A TEST TC ADVISORY. MWO SHOULD NOW ISSUE A TEST SIGMET FOR TC, <del>UNLESS THERE IS A VALID SIGMET FOR TC...</del> ”		
Appendix K	Title	“ <del>DRAFT</del> ASIA/PAC VAAC BACK-UP PROCEDURES”	Title changed to indicate VAAC back-up and VAAC back-up test procedures are in <u>draft</u> format (pending LOA between VAACs).	Email liaison with Tokyo VAAC
Appendix L	Title	” <del>DRAFT</del> TOKYO/DARWIN VAAC BACK-UP TEST PROCEDURES”		

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