



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 Conjoint C2: e) Other Business

REGIONAL USER READINESS FOR THE MIGRATION TO GRIB2

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents updates in preparations for the cessation of WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 1 code form and the migration to WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with Conclusion 7/10 of the Seventh Meeting of the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG/7) held in Lima, Peru, from 17 to 21 September 2012, the World Area Forecast Centre (WAFS) provider States have been invited to cease the preparation and issuance of World Area Forecast System (WAFS) gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB* Edition 1 code form (GRIB1) at 0000 UTC on 14 November 2013.

1.3 In view of the planned cessation of WAFS GRIB1 products, users of the satellite distribution system for information relating to air navigation (SADIS) or of the WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) should migrate to receiving, decoding and using the WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form as soon as possible if not already done so.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 WAFS GRIB2 products, which have been available on the WAFS broadcast since November 2010, provide superior temporal and spatial resolution when compared to WAFS GRIB1 products and are prepared by the WAFCs in accordance with Annex 3 — *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, Appendix 3, 1.2.*

* World Meteorological Organization – Gridded Binary [code]

2.2 In accordance with Conclusion 6/10 of WAFSOPSG/6, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 21 to 24 March 2011, the WAFS provider States have made GRIB 2 products available ahead of GRIB 1 products since July 2012.

2.3 In view of the prioritization of WAFS GRIB2 products over WAFS GRIB1 products, and the expected cessation of WAFS GRIB1 products (in November 2013), the Twenty-third Meeting of the ASIA/PAC Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/23), held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 14 September 2012, formulated Conclusion 23/39 – *to urge States/users of WAFS forecasts in the ASIA/PAC Region to accelerate preparations for transition from GRIB1 to GRIB2 WAFS forecasts, if not already done so.*

2.4 In step with the APANPIRG/23 Conclusion 23/39, WAFSOPSG/7 (17 to 21 September 2012) formulated Conclusion 7/11 – *to inform all SADIS and WIFS user States that WAFS GRIB1 products will cease to be available with effect 0000 UTC on 14 November 2013, in lieu of the operational availability of WAFS GRIB2 products; and to encourage concerned user States that have not already done so to migrate to using the WAFS GRIB2 forecasts.*

2.5 The Air Navigation Commission, at the 10th meeting of its 191st Session on 8 November 2012, reviewed the WAFSOPSG/7 report and requested that States be informed in accordance with WAFSOPSG/7 Conclusion 7/11. As a result, the ICAO Secretary General issued the State Letter – *Ref.: AN 10/3.1-13/2* – on 23 January 2013, which is reproduced in **Attachment 1** for ease of reference.

2.6 Following the issuance of the Secretary General's State Letter, and in accordance with WAFSOPSG/7 Conclusion 7/11 and APANPIRG/23 Conclusion 23/39, the ICAO ASIA/PAC Regional Director issued the State Letter – *Ref.: T 4/8.1:AP029/13* – on 22 February 2013, which is reproduced in **Attachment 2** for ease of reference and requested States to reply no later than 19 April 2013 indicating the status of preparations for the migration to WAFS GRIB2 forecasts.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review the information in this paper;
- b) discuss any significant issues concerning the migration to WAFS GRIB2 forecasts; and
- c) provide the meeting with updates where possible on States'/users' preparations for the cessation of WAFS GRIB1 forecasts.

ATTACHMENT 1

(Reproduced from State Letter – Ref.: AN 10/3.1-13/2)

Tel.: +1 514-954-8219 ext. 7079

Ref.: AN 10/3.1-13/2

23 January 2013

Subject: Cessation of WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 1 code form

Action required: Migrate to WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form as soon as possible

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to inform you that the Air Navigation Commission, at the tenth meeting of its 191st Session on 8 November 2012, reviewed the report of the seventh meeting of the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG/7) held in Lima, Peru from 17 to 21 September 2012. The Commission in particular noted the action to be taken with respect to subparagraph b) of Conclusion 7/11 (reproduced in the attachment) and requested that you be informed that, as of 14 November 2013, the world area forecast system (WAFS) gridded global forecasts in World Meteorological Organization (WMO) GRIB Edition 1 code form will cease to be available.

2. I should be grateful, therefore, if you are a user of the satellite distribution system for information relating to air navigation (SADIS) or of the WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS), that you migrate to receiving, decoding and using the WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form as soon as possible, if you have not already done so, in view of the superior temporal and spatial resolution provided by these forecasts. Should you require assistance in the migration to WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form, you are requested to contact the WAFS Provider States or your WAFS workstation software provider.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Raymond Benjamin
Secretary General

Enclosure:

WAFSOPSG/7 Conclusion 7/11

ATTACHMENT to State letter AN 10/3.1-13/2

Conclusion 7/11 — Informing user States of the cessation of WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 1 code form

That ICAO, in coordination with WMO:

- a) inform all SADIS and WIFS user States that WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 1 code form (GRIB1) will cease to be available with effect 0000 UTC on 14 November 2013, in lieu of the operational availability of upper-air gridded forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form (GRIB2); and

- b) encourage concerned user States that have not already done so to migrate to using the WAFS GRIB2 forecasts.

Note 1.— This follow-up is in accordance with the WAFS five-year plan endorsed by each meeting of the WAFSOPSG and WAFSOPSG Decision 7/9.

Note 2.— WAFS GRIB2 forecasts provide superior temporal and spatial resolution when compared to WAFS GRIB1 forecasts, are prepared by the WAFCs in accordance with Annex 3 — Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, Appendix 3, 1.2 and have been available on the WAFS broadcast since November 2010.

ATTACHMENT 2

(Reproduced from State Letter – Ref.: T 4/8.1:AP029/13)

Ref.: T 4/8.1 :AP029/13 (MET)

22 February 2013

Subject: User readiness for transition from
WMO GRIB Edition 1 to WMO GRIB Edition 2
code form WAFS gridded global forecasts

Action required:

- 1) Migrate to WAFS gridded global forecasts in
WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form as soon as possible; and
- 2) Inform this office of the status of your GRIB 2 migration
preparations **no later than 19 April 2013**

Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to refer to the Twenty Third Meeting of the ASIA/PAC Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/23) held in Bangkok, Thailand from 10 to 14 September 2012, and in particular to the Conclusion 23/39, reproduced here for your ease of reference:

Conclusion 23/39 – User readiness for transition from GRIB1 to GRIB2 code form WAFS forecasts

That, ICAO urges States/users of WAFS forecasts in the ASIA/PAC Region to accelerate preparations for transition from WMO GRIB1 to GRIB2 WAFS forecasts if not already done so.

As you will know, in accordance with Conclusion 7/10 of the Seventh Meeting of the World Area Forecast System Operations Group (WAFSOPSG/7) held in Lima, Peru from 17 to 21 September 2012, the WAFS Provider States have been invited to cease the preparation and issuance of WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 1 code form at 0000 UTC on 14 November 2013.

In view of the above, the Secretary General distributed State Letter Ref: AN 10/3.1-13/2 (reproduced in the attachment) requesting States/users to migrate to receiving, decoding and using the WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form as soon as possible, if not already done so, in view of the superior temporal and spatial resolution provided by these forecasts.

To facilitate an assessment of States/users readiness for transition from GRIB1 to GRIB2 code form WAFS forecasts in the ASIA/PAC Region, I would kindly request that you reply to this letter **no later than 19 April 2013** indicating the status of your Administration's preparations for the migration to WAFS gridded global forecasts in WMO GRIB Edition 2 code form.

Accept Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Regional Director