



International Civil Aviation Organization

**THE THIRD MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL
HAZARDS TASK FORCE (MET/H TF/3)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 13 – 15 March 2013

Agenda Item 2: Review educational material

- a) Monitor the developments of IAVWOPSG and METWSG with reference to guidance on radioactive cloud and Tsunami

GLOBAL PROGRESS ON GUIDANCE ON RADIOACTIVE CLOUD

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of the progress towards development of guidance material on radioactive cloud and radioactive material.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Fifteenth Meeting of the Communication/Navigation/Surveillance and Meteorology Sub-group (CNS/MET SG/15), held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 29 July 2011, formulated Decision 15/33 – *to task the METWARN/1 TF¹ to continue its efforts to develop guidance material in appropriate Regional Guidance Document (i.e. SIGMET Guide or Contingency Plan) in consultation with the IAVWOPSG and WMO for the issuance of RDOACT CLD (decode: radioactive cloud) SIGMET.*

1.2 Progress on the development of guidance material for radioactive cloud was reviewed by the CNS/MET SG/16 meeting, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 to 27 July 2012, which considered the global initiatives reported by the Sixth Meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG/6), held in Dakar, Senegal, from 19 to 23 September 2011. CNS/MET SG/16 noted that IAVWOPSG/6 formulated Conclusion 6/29 — *Provision of information on radioactive material released into the atmosphere*, and Conclusion 6/30 — *Alternative provisions for radiological cloud information for international air navigation*, that called for ad-hoc groups to continue with tasks identified to address the key issues concerning the importance, complexity and lack of expertise on radioactive clouds.

1.3 In light of the above, CNS/MET SG/16 recognized that further development of regional guidance material for the issuance of radioactive cloud SIGMET will depend on outcomes of the (IAVWOPSG) ad-hoc groups' initiatives, which will be discussed further at the Seventh Meeting of the IAVWOPSG, in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 22 March 2013.

¹ Re-named MET/H TF following CNS/MET SG/16 Decision 16/34

2. Discussion

2.1 The meeting will recall that IAVWOPSG/6, in its deliberations on improved notification concerning the accidental release of radioactive material into the atmosphere, formulated the following conclusions:

Conclusion 6/29 — Provision of information on radioactive material released into the atmosphere:

That, an ad-hoc group consisting of Canada (Rapporteur), Australia, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, IATA and WMO:

- a) develop a concept of operations on how best to provide information on radioactive cloud in support of international air navigation;*
- b) continue to assess the provision of information and guidance on radioactive material released into the atmosphere (as provided in Appendices K to P to the IAVWOPSG/6 report);*
- c) consult with the WMO (nuclear Emergency Response Activities Coordination Group including IAEA) and evaluate the possible role of RSMCs in the provision of guidance as identified in the concept of operations;*
- d) review the provisions of Annex 3 and Doc 9691 regarding radioactive material and report back on any proposed changes;*
- e) report back to IAVWOPSG/7.*

Conclusion 6/30 — Alternative provisions for radiological cloud information for international air navigation:

That, an ad-hoc group consisting of Canada (Rapporteur), the United States, IATA and WMO be tasked to:

- a) study alternative provisions for radiological cloud information to replace the RDOACT SIGMET from MWOs, which can be provided by regional or world centre(s) which possess the necessary expertise and capability to provide timely and accurate information on the radioactive cloud for international air navigation; and*
- b) report back to IAVWOPSG/7.*

2.2 The IAVWOPSG/7, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 22 March 2013, is expected to review the progress of the ad-hoc groups tasked to address IAVWOPSG Conclusions 6/29 and 6/30. The relevant papers (WP/IP) to be examined by IAVWOPSG/7 are available on the website (<http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/iavwopsg/Lists/Meetings/AllItems.aspx>) and provide information on the progress made towards (IAVWOPSG) Conclusions 6/29 and 6/30 (WP/6), the draft concept of operations (ConOps) for the provision of information about the release of radioactive material into the atmosphere in support of international air navigation (WP/18), comments by the WMO on the draft version of the ConOps (WP/32), the context of existing ICAO provisions and guidance with regards the draft ConOps (WP/4) and a proposal provided for SIGMET for radioactive clouds (IP/5).

2.3 It may be anticipated that IAVWOPSG/7 will conclude on further progress required with regards to guidance material for radioactive material and also conclude on whether and how to further develop the ConOps document for the provision of information about the release of radioactive material into the atmosphere in support of international air navigation.

2.4 In light of the discussion above, the meeting may expect that further development of the regional guidance material for the issuance of radioactive cloud SIGMET will depend on further consideration of the outcomes from IAVWOPSG/7.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review the information to be addressed by IAVWOPSG/7; and
- b) discuss relevant issues in the context of regional requirements for guidance material for radioactive cloud SIGMET.
