

International Civil Aviation Organization



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(MET SG/28)

Bangkok, Thailand, 8 to 12 July 2024

Agenda Item 4: Regional guidance material

ROBEX HANDBOOK UPDATE – ROC'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IWXXM EXCHANGE

(Presented by Australia and Hong Kong China)

SUMMARY

This flimsy presents the proposed updates to the ROBEX Handbook as agreed in MET/IE WG/22 for ensuring clarity of the guidance concerning the ROCs' responsibilities for the distribution of IWXXM formatted OPMET data.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Considering the different exchange schemes for TAC-formatted and IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA in the APAC Region, it is proposed to update ROBEX Handbook to clarify for IWXXM distribution it is the ROC who is responsible for managing distribution to other IWXXM capable ROCs and to NOCs under its AoR.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 MET/IE WG/22 reviewed the proposed updates to the ROBEX Handbook to ensure clarity of the guidance concerning the ROCs' responsibilities for the distribution of IWXXM formatted OPMET data (as specified in Conclusion MET SG/24: IWXXM Exchange Approach). It also requested that Australia, Hong Kong China and the Secretariat include the changes with the proposed updates to be presented for review and approval at MET SG/28 (Action MET/IE WG/22-11 refers).

Action MET/IE WG/22-11: ROBEX Handbook updates - ROC IWXXM exchange

Include the changes concerning ROC responsibilities for IWXXM exchange (as presented in MET/IE WG/22 WP/23) with the next proposed updates to the ROBEX Handbook

2.2 **Attachment A** to this paper presents the proposed updates which was presented in [MET/IE WG/22 WP/23](#) and agreed by MET/IE WG/22.

2.3 Subsequently to MET/IE WG/22, it was identified that these modified ROC exchange responsibilities are valid for all OPMET exchange, and therefore, it is proposed to include this text in an overarching section of the ROBEX Handbook (Section 5, rather than Section 8). Further, it was determined that it would be valuable to clarify that the ROC should consider each recipient's support

for AMHS/FTBP and IWXXM prior to disseminating the IWXXM to that recipient. Corresponding changes were also added to the text.

2.4 **Attachment B**, contains proposed alternate text for inclusion in the ROBEX Handbook.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to

- a) note the information in this paper; and
- b) approve the proposed updates to the ROBEX Handbook as provided in **Attachment B** and incorporate them in the next version of the ROBEX Handbook.

Attachment A – MET/IE WG/22 proposed updates to Section 8 of the ROBEX Handbook

(Editorial note – proposed updates are indicated with ~~strikethrough~~ and highlighted text.)

8. EXCHANGE OF SIGMET, TCA and VAA

8.1 SIGMET should be prepared by the meteorological watch offices (MWO) designated by the State's meteorological authority. The MWOs and their areas of responsibility are given in ANP, Volume II, Table MET II-1.

8.2 SIGMET messages should be distributed to all RODBs within the Region, who should also make the SIGMET messages available on request. In order to facilitate that, the originating MWOs should use the WMO headings given in the *ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide, Appendix D* for their SIGMET bulletins

Note: The required distribution of SIGMET to MWOs and ACCs in the adjacent FIRs described in the ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide is not part of the ROBEX exchange and should be arranged by the States outside the ROBEX scheme.

8.3 SIGMET messages should be distributed to other ICAO regions and made available for redistribution through SADIS and WIFS. This distribution should be carried out through the relevant IROGs.

8.4 Detailed information on the format of the SIGMET messages is provided in the *ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide*.

8.5 Tropical cyclone advisories (TCA) and volcanic ash advisories (VAA) should be issued by the designated tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisory centres (TCAC and VAAC), as indicated in *FASID Table MET 3A and MET 3B*.

8.6 The TCACs and VAACs should send their advisories to the APAC RODBs. The RODBs should make TCAs and VAAs messages available on request. In order to facilitate that, the originating TCACs and VAACs should use the WMO headings given in the *ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide, Appendix D*.

8.7 VAA and TCA messages should be distributed to other ICAO regions and made available for redistribution through SADIS and WIFS. This distribution should be carried out either directly by the VAACs and TCACs or through the relevant IROGs.

8.8 ROCs are responsible for the distribution of the IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA.

- ROC is responsible for collecting IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA from NOCs under its area of responsibility (AoR), and disseminating them to all other ROCs in the APAC Region.
- ROC is also responsible for collecting IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA from other ROCs in the APAC Region and disseminating to NOCs under its AoR for further distribution to users.
- Originating centres need to send IWXXM formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA to their corresponding ROC.

Attachment B – Proposed updates to Section 5 of the ROBEX Handbook

(Editorial note – Proposed updates are indicated with ~~striketrough~~ and highlighted text. Proposed changes made after MET/IE WG/22 are indicated in red.)

5. COMMUNICATIONS - GENERAL

5.1 Exchange of OPMET

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5.2 Use of AFTN/AMHS

- 5.2.1 The AFTN is used for the exchange of OPMET in TAC form, and AMHS is used for the exchange in IWXXM form. It is to be noted that IWXXM cannot be exchanged over the AFTN due to the character set included in IWXXM. When AMHS is used, this must be either AMHS Extended or AMHS with File Transfer Body Part (FTBP).
- 5.2.2 AFTN/AMHS circuits are used for the collection of OPMET messages by the ROCs, and for regional and inter-regional exchanges of OPMET bulletins. However, the exchanges are subject to the use of AFTN and AMHS, as noted in 5.2.1.
- 5.2.3 OPMET bulletins containing TAC or IWXXM formatted OPMET transmitted via AFTN/AMHS shall be encapsulated in the normal AFTN envelope (for TAC) and for IWXXM as described in the Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM available at <https://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/edocs.aspx>
- 5.2.4 AFTN/AMHS messages and bulletins containing OPMET shall achieve transit times of less than 5 minutes unless otherwise determined by regional air navigation agreement.
- 5.2.5 OPMET bulletins (TAC) transmitted via AFTN shall use the following priority indicators:
- FF – for SIGMET, AIREP SPECIAL, VAA, TCA, ~~SWXA~~ and TAF AMD; and
 - GG – for TAF, METAR and SPECI.
- 5.2.6 For information about the transmission of OPMET bulletins (IWXXM) via AMHS, refer to the document Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM, which is available on the following ICAO APAC Office website (click on MET): <https://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/edocs.aspx>.
- 5.2.7 ROCs are responsible for **managing** the distribution of the IWXXM-formatted ~~SIGMET, TCA and VAA~~ OPMET bulletins to other OPMET centres within APAC that are capable of receiving and processing IWXXM information. Being capable includes having access to AMHS/FTBP and being configured to receive IWXXM.
- ROC is responsible for ~~collecting~~ **managing collation** of IWXXM-formatted ~~SIGMET, TCA and VAA~~ OPMET bulletins from NOCs under its area of responsibility (AoR), and disseminating them to all other **capable** ROCs in the APAC Region.
 - ROC is also responsible for ~~collecting~~ **managing collation** of IWXXM-formatted ~~SIGMET, TCA and VAA~~ OPMET bulletins from other ROCs in the APAC Region and disseminating to **capable** NOCs under its AoR for further distribution to users.
 - Originating centres need to send IWXXM formatted ~~SIGMET, TCA and VAA~~ OPMET bulletins to their corresponding ROC.