

*International Civil Aviation Organization*



ICAO

**FLIMSY (FL/03)**

**ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC)**  
Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group  
(MET SG/28)

Bangkok, Thailand, 8 to 12 July 2024

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**Agenda Item 4: Regional guidance material**

**PROPOSED ADDITION TO REGIONAL APAC SIGMET GUIDE  
TO ADDRESS ACTION 25/09**  
(Presented by New Zealand)

**SUMMARY**

This Flimsy is provided to address outstanding action 25/09 to provide MWO with additional guidance for VA SIGMET issuance, and also support the new VA SIGMET example presented in WP/10.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 There is an outstanding action from MET/SG 25 to provide additional guidance for MWOs related to cases when a neighbouring VAAC continues to issue VAA even if the ash cloud is expected to cross the AoR

1.2 In addition, WP/10 presented a new VA SIGMET example for when VA is expected to cross a FIR border – and in such a scenario, the VA may also cross a VAAC border.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 An outstanding action from MET/SG 25 states “Review SIGMET Guide as necessary to guide MWOs to handle cases when VAAC would not hand over to the neighbouring VAAC even if the ash cloud is expected to cross the AoR [Ref: para. 4.12.-4.14.]”

2.2 To address this, VAAC Darwin and VAAC Wellington propose the text in ATTACHMENT A to be included in the next publication of the Regional SIGMET Guide.

2.3 This text may also support MWOs when FIR and VAAC boundaries are aligned.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- 3.1.1 Note the information contained in this paper;
- 3.1.2 Discuss any improvements to the proposed additional text and include it in the next update to the Regional SIGMET Guide; and
- 3.1.3 Consider closing Action 25/09.

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**ATTACHMENT A**

**2.6 Coordination between MWOs, VAACs, TCACs and State volcano observatories**

2.6.1 Amongst the phenomena for which SIGMET information is required, volcanic ash and tropical cyclones are of particular importance.

2.6.2 Since the identification, analysis and forecasting of volcanic ash and tropical cyclones requires considerable scientific and technical resources, normally not available at each MWO, VAACs and TCACs have been designated to provide volcanic ash advisories and tropical cyclone advisories respectively to the users and assist the MWOs in the preparation of SIGMETs for those phenomena. Close coordination should be established between the MWO and its responsible VAAC and/or TCAC.

Note: For events near VAAC boundaries, or passing between VAAC AoR, the VAACs will discuss who will issue the VAA. MWOs should be aware that a neighbouring VAAC may issue a VAA for that MWO's FIR, due to the neighbouring VAAC continuing to hold on to the responsibility for the event.

In these cases, the MWO will receive a VAA that will refer them to the VAA issued by the neighbouring VAAC which will provide information on VA in that MWO's FIR. This information should be used to prepare the WV SIGMET.

2.6.3 Information regarding the VAACs and TCACs areas of responsibility [...].