



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

AGENDA ITEM 9

ICAO Monitoring of Pacific Aviation OPMET Data

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Purpose of the Paper

- To update the Meeting on the OPMET monitoring activities of the MET/IE WG, which reports to the MET SG of the ICAO APAC APANPIRG.
- To highlight the higher availability, timeliness and IWXXM validity thresholds now expected for the provision of OPMET, as required in the APAC air navigation plan and ICAO Annex 3 *Meteorological Services for International Air Navigation*.
- To seek the Meeting's guidance in assisting Pacific Island States to address and improve the provision of ICAO compliant OPMET data to ensure successful IWXXM translation.



Background

- The ICAO APAC Air Navigation Plan outlines the services provided for international air navigation in the Asia and Pacific region – including aerodrome observations (METAR) and aerodrome forecasts (TAF).
- The MET/IE working group monitor and review the availability and timeliness of these products – including the availability and quality of their digital format (IWXXM).
- New monitoring methodology will be in place for 2024 monitoring, with higher thresholds required – 95% of expected METAR and TAF should be available, with complete IWXXM.



Pacific Meteorology IWXXM OPMET Data Performance

- Pacific Island State-specific results generally low percentages of unsuccessful IWXXM translation, meaning the METAR and TAF issued were mostly ICAO compliant – great!
- Still some issues with typos, missing elements, incorrect formatting, presence of remark (RMK) fields – but now these issues have been identified via the monitoring – they can be addressed.



Future considerations

- Next year (following the monitoring 2024 activity) the MET/IE WG will focus on availability (are messages issued when they are required?) and, where possible, timeliness (are they available on time?).
- It is anticipated that a new aerodrome observation information service will be introduced into Annex 3 from late 2027, which will be provided in IWXXM format only (no 'human readable' version will be provided).
- More information on these initiatives will be shared, once available, within the PIAWS Panel and with the PMC in due course.



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the higher thresholds (now 0.95) being applied to annual OPMET monitoring activity results for potential deficiency identification.
- **Encourage** States to consider future proofing their observation and forecast systems to ensure the ability to comply with ICAO provisions and to meet current and future requirements for international aviation.
- **Request** assistance for Pacific Island States' NMHSs to ensure METAR and TAF procedures and tools promote the issuance of Annex 3 compliant products.