

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP
ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

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EXPERT TEAM ON AIRCRAFT-BASED OBSERVING SYSTEMS
FIRST SESSION

ITEM: 5.2

Original: ENGLISH

Geneva, Switzerland, 10-13 September, 2013

ET-ABO WORK PLAN & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Status & Progress on ET-ABO Work Plan Tasks 2013-14

ABO & AMDAR Regulatory Material

(Submitted by Jitze van der Meulen)

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

Short overview of the activities related to ABO & AMDAR documentation Regulatory Material.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Session is invited to take notice of the document for input of further discussions and consider any recommendations

Appendices

(none)

References

1. WMO AMDAR Panel, 15th session (Boulder, CO, USA, 2012), Final report
 2. AMDAR Reference Manual (WMO-No. 958)
 3. Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observations (WMO-No. 8)
 4. ICG-WIGOS, Task team on WIGOS Regulatory Material, second session (June 2013), Final report
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PROGRESS AND ACTIVITY REPORT

Current Status

1. The WMO Technical Regulations are under review to provide a significant update on the standards and recommended practices describing the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS). This process implies a new structure of the Annexes related with the Technical Regulations, in particular the introduction of the Manual on the WIGOS. The current Manual on the GOS will be integrated into this new Manual.
2. The AMDAR Reference Manual (2003) is no part of the set of Manuals, identified as Annexes to the Technical Regulations and has therefore not the level of regulatory material. Nevertheless the AMDAR Manual can be well regarded as a valuable reference document, with a collection of all relevant information on AMDAR. However, this Manual is based up to some extent on a number of other WMO Manuals which are modified frequently. Moreover The Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observations (the 'CIMO Guide') contains a specific ABO chapter with AMDAR information, which is more up to date. A new version of this chapter will be published shortly.
3. It is foreseen to document specific ABO and AMDAR practices (requirements and recommendations) within the new WIGOS documents and to update the CIMO Guide regularly. Because of these overlaps it is questionable if any future update of the AMDAR Reference Manual is of interest.
4. The Manual consists of 6 main chapters and 6 relatively large Appendices. Apart from the historic background and purpose of AMDAR data, the contents deals up to a large extent with the methods of observation, generation of data reports, data communication, data management and quality control. The great advantage of the Manual is that it contains the overall information from sensor up to data use, all in one document. The disadvantage is that frequent revisions of existing regulatory documents, like the Manual on Codes will introduce revisions of this Manual as well, and it will require much effort to keep the Manual up to date.
5. A useful solution might be to convert the Manual into a digitally formatted 'wiki' look alike environment using web links (or cross links) to the relevant part of WMO regulatory material. Dedicated parts can be moved to the CIMO Guide (if not already published in this Guide) or published as report in the Instruments and Methods of Observations Report Series. Relevant here is that this digitized environment is well managed to guarantee the overall information on AMDAR.
6. To generate such a service, the current AMDAR Manual should be reviewed first by analyzing the specific parts (mainly the Appendices). While splitting up these parts decisions must be made if these parts may be interlinked to other WMO documents, or published as a specific AMDAR report.

Development & Other Activities

7. The Task Team on WIGOS Regulatory Material currently produces new Standards and Recommended Practices to be published with the Technical Regulations and the Manual on the WIGOS. Within this activity, aircraft observations are considered.
8. A new revision of the specific chapter on aircraft observation in the CIMO Guide is drafted and under review for publication.

Future Plans

9. As stated under 6, a review and analyses of the AMDAR Manual should be planned to determine how the specific parts should be treated. Management on information and requirements of aircraft observing and data reporting systems has to be organized.

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT

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