WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS

TASK TEAM ON GOS REGULATORY MATERIAL
(TT-GRM)

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ITEM: 2

Original: ENGLISH

Revisions to the Manual on the GOS

(Submitted by Mr. H. Daan, Rapporteur on the improvement of Volume A)

Summary and Purpose of Document

The document provides comments and proposals related to the Manual on the GOS, as contained in Annex.

ACTION PROPOSED

The meeting is invited to review and take into account, as appropriate, comments provided by the Rapporteur in making amendments to the Manual on the GOS.

Annex: Comments on content of the Manual on the GOS.

Revision of the Manual on GOS

1. General
Much of the text is not what you would expect from a Manual. A Manual should contain clear directives and obligations in relation to standard observing practices. These are rare in the text. On the other hand, it contains much text which should not be here in my opinion. It would fit better in the Guide or be deleted.

I have some experience in trying to find directives in the Manual. This experience was not very positive. The text is very lengthy, and the mandatory parts are sparse (not much more than 10% of text is mandatory for Members).

I would prefer a shorter notation, focusing on the mandatory parts. Explanatory notes could be transferred to the Guide.

2. The Introduction is a mixture of miscellaneous remarks. The section "General" is more a Preface. "Purpose and Scope" is defined too broadly. "Types of regulation" is clear enough, but should this be treated here so extensively?.

3. Page 5, Definitions
This is a very long list of types of stations and observations. The types are of a very miscellaneous nature, including types of:

- observational parameters: precipitation, ozone, radiation
- observing equipment: atmospherics detection, radar, automatic station, radiosonde
- carriers: aircraft, ship, platform, buoy, rocket, ice floe
- function: aeronautical, agricultural, research, synoptic, climatological
- networks: RBSN/RBCN, GCOS, GAW
- location: coastal, lightship, land, sea, surface, upper air
- performance: principal, reference, auxiliary, supplementary, selected, ordinary

This section would be better readable if the structure could be improved (see also the analysis in Appendix 1). In particular, a definition of "remote" versus "in-situ" observations could be added. The whole dictionary could be transferred to an attachment.

4. Page 13, PART I
The text in this part hardly adds anything interesting. It does not contain any solid obligation or commitment. Apart from 1.1, the only substantial information is in the organisation of this book: definition of the surface-based and space-based subsystems. As the organisation of the Manual follows the organisation of the GOS, it might be better to have it combined here.

I made a try (see appendix C);

5. Page 15, PART II
In my opinion, the requirements should not be a part of the Manual, but boundary conditions. Therefore, the attachments should be preserved as attachments to the Manual as a whole, not in a specific part. The text in this part, again, is very unspecific, and can be deleted without any loss of information. The role of CBS, e.g., is laid down in the Convention and Regulations, and should not be repeated here. The proposed new text is ok, but I think that the Manual is not the place to lay down procedures for CBS and EC.

6. Page 18 and 19, attachment II.1
I did not find a reference to this table. If there is none, the table could be deleted.

7. Page 22, attachment II.3
This not a requirement, but meant as a feasible response to the requirements. It should not be in an attachment, but be included in PART III as an major integral component of the surface-based subsystem.

(Personally, I disagree strongly with the presented distances)

8. Page 23, attachment II.4
There is an inbalance between the requirements for different purposes. Also, requirements for (e.g.) the aeronautical and climatological purposes are absent.

9. Page 27, Part III
This part should start with a definition of stations with in relation to their specific function (as component of a network or in a specific local function, e.g. aeronautical, agricultural, nuclear plants?).

Then, it should clearly set out requirements to stations regarding obs program and time schedules.

10. Page 28
2.1: most can be deleted; except for 2.1.4, 2.1.5 and 2.1.9.

2.2: include a definition of a surface synoptic station, including requirements for the observing area (maximum distance between sensors).

delete 2.2.7 and move 2.2.8 to a section on climate networks.

The differentiation between manned and automatic stations is outdated. Many automatic stations provide better obs than many manned stations nowadays. The perception of automatic stations as an acceptable as an emergency measure should be suppressed.

Also, I am opposed to the differentiation between land and sea stations. It has led to de-standardisation (codes: SYNOP versus SHIP, numbering system), which is very confusing. The differentiation between fixed and mobile stations is much more useful.

11. Page 30
All these lists of parameters should be combined in a clear table (see Appendix 2).

12. Page 36
Sections 2.6 and much of 2.9 could be deleted or be transferred to the Guide if only mandatory material should be kept in the Manual.

13. Page 43, 2.9.33
Reference is made to 2.9.7.6 (a) to (k). I couldn't find this reference.

14. Page 44, Section 3
This section is more adequate for practical use than section 2. However, much of this section could be transferred to the Guide too.

15. I did not find any reference to wind profilers.

16. PART IV
This text, including the proposed addition, is much more to the point than the surface-based part. Possibly, the fact that there are only few operators makes it easier.

No comments to PARTs V and VI.

Attached are:
Appendix 1: Definition of types of observing stations (in TRM.XLS)
Appendix 2: Performance requirements (in TRM.XLS)
Appendix 3: A suggestion for a shorter alternative (in ManGOS.DOC)

Note: Appendix 3 is just a suggestion, it is not at all complete.