

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**



**AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

**AFI REGIONAL SIGMET TESTS REPORT**

*November 2012*

**REPORT ON AFI SIGMET TESTS**  
*November 2012*

**A - DATA EXCHANGE ANALYSIS**

**La reunion TCAC:** TC advisory disseminated on 13 November 2012 on schedule at 0900 UTC.

**Toulouse VAAC:** VA advisory disseminated on 20 November 2012 at 08:58:00 UTC two minutes before schedule.

Pretoria RODB/GIB: WS advisory placed on Internet on GIB (Geocentric Information Briefing) on 27 November 2012

**Dakar RODB:**

- ✓ TC advisory received on 13 November 2012 at 09:09: UTC, 9 minutes after dissemination
- ✓ VA advisory received on 20 November 2012 at 08:58 UTC, at the dissemination time
- ✓ No time frame estimated for WS advisory.
- ✓ WS SIGMET Tests issued by MWOs on their areas of responsibility

**Pretoria RODB:**

- ✓ TC advisory received on 13 November 2012 at 09:01:14 UTC, 1 minute and 14 seconds after the dissemination time.
- ✓ VA advisory received on 20 November 2012 at 08:59 UTC, one second earlier than expected time.
- ✓ WS advisory disseminated through e-mail by ESAF RO/MET to Pretoria RODB on 22 November 2012.
- ✓ No time frame estimated for WS advisory.
- ✓ WS SIGMET Tests issued by MWOs on their areas of responsibility.

**1°) Issuance and Dissemination of WC SIGMET**

- Only four (4) out of expected Ten (10) MWOs (FMML, HKJK, FSIA, FAJS), issued WC SIGMET during the Test period. WC SIGMET from FSIA was only received at DAKAR RODB.
- Three (3) additional MWOs (HECA, DGAA and HSSA) issued WC SIGMETs while they were not supposed to.
- WC SIGMETs from 4 (four) MWOs (HKJK, FSIA, FAJS, DGAA) were received late; 36 minutes (0:36), 1 hour forty two minutes (1:42), four hours thirty three minutes (4:33 and one hour twenty eight minutes (1:28) respectively.

**2°) Issuance and Dissemination of WV SIGMET**

- 22 MWOs out of 35 in the AFI region (63%) did not issue WV SIGMET during the Test period.
- WV SIGMETs from 4 (four) MWOs (FIMP, HKJK, GVAC, FMMI) were received late, more than 10 minutes after the advisory was issued by LFPW.
- Two (2) SIGMET from HKJK and two (2) from GOOY were received at Pretoria RODB at different times.
- SIGMET from FLLS was received only at Dakar RODB.

**3°) Issuance and Dissemination of WS SIGMET**

- 19 MWOs out of 35 in the AFI region (54%) did not issue any WS SIGMET during the Test period.
- WS SIGMETs from 4 MWOs (DAAL, GCLP, DGAA, and HKJK) were received only at Pretoria RODB.
- WS SIGMETs from two MWOs (FIMP, HSSS) were received only at Dakar RODB.
- Eight (8) SIGMETs from FTTJ, three (3) from GOOY, two (2) from FCBB, two (2) from HKJK, two (2) from DGAA were received at Pretoria RODB at different times.
- Eight (8) SIGMETs from FTTJ, two (2) from HECA, three (3) from FMMI, three (3) from GOOY, two (2) from DRRN and two (2) from FAJS were received at Dakar RODB at different times.

**B - SIGMET FORMAT ANALYSIS****1°) TC SIGMET****Johannesburg/South Africa:**

Test format not followed.

- a) The first line not in accordance with the provided format. Information ‘TO: TCAC LA REUNION, RODB DAKAR, RODB PRETORIA ‘should not be included.
- b) The word “TEST” should be repeated 12 times” at the end of the SIGMET Test

**Antananarivo/Madagascar:**

- a) Meteorological part not based on the advisory
- b) The word “TEST” should be repeated 12 times” at the end of the SIGMET Test

**Accra/Ghana**

- a) First line should start with the ICAO location indicator of the ATS unit serving the FIR i.e. DGAC and the indicator for MWO i.e. DGAA.
- b) Data type in the WMO header should be WC and not WS.

**Khartoum/Sudan**

- a) The first line should end with hyphen to separate the preamble from the text.

**Nairobi/Kenya:**

No error

2°) **VA SIGMET**

**Cairo/Egypt (HECA)**

- a) Priority ‘GG’ was used instead of ‘FF’.

**Kano/Nigeria (DNKN):**

- a) No error

**Niamey/Niger (DRRN):**

- a) No error

**Dakar/Senegal (GOOY):**

- a) Priority ‘GG’ used instead of ‘FF’  
b) Meteorological part not based on the advisory

**Johannesburg/South Africa (FAJS):**

- a) No error

**N’Djamena/Chad (FTTJ):**

- a) No Error

**Sal/Cape Verde (GVAC):**

- a) Priority ‘GG’ was used instead of ‘FF’

**Madagascar/Antananarivo (FMMI)**

- a) No error

3°) **WS SIGMET** (*following the weather phenomenon provided on a chart*)

**Antananarivo/Madagascar:**

- a) Weather phenomenon “SEV ICE OBS” was reported instead of “SEV MTW OBS”  
b) The word “TEST” should be repeated 12 times at the end of the SIGMET message.

**Brazzaville/Congo:**

- a) Priority indicator “GG” was used instead of “FF”.  
b) Weather phenomenon “SQL OBS” was reported instead of “EMBD TS OBS”.  
c) Validity period should have 270907/271207 instead of 271205/271220

**Johannesburg/South Africa:**

- a) No Error.

**Kano/Nigeria:**

- a) No weather phenomenon, location, level and movement reported. Weather Phenomenon “EMBD TS OBS” should have been reported  
b) Validity 270907/271207 should have been given instead of 271205/271220  
c) The word “TEST” should be repeated 12 times at the end of the SIGMET test message.

**Niamey/Niger:**

- a) The word “TEST” should be repeated 12 times at the end of the SIGMET test message

**Mauritius/Mauritius:**

- a) No Error

**N'Djamena/Chad:**

- a) The abbreviation "OBS" should have been included at the end of the weather phenomenon group.

**Dakar/Senegal:**

- a) Priority indicator "GG" was used instead of "FF"
- b) No weather phenomenon reported. "SQL TS" should have been reported
- c) Validity should have been 270907/271207
- d) The word "TEST" should be repeated 12 times at the end of the SIGMET message.

**Nairobi/Kenya**

- a) Location of weather phenomenon not given
- b) The word "TEST" should be repeated 12 times at the end of the SIGMET message.

**Cairo/ Egypt**

- a) Priority "GG" used instead of "FF".
- b) No weather phenomenon reported. Weather phenomenon "HVY DS OBS" should be reported.
- c) The word "TEST" should be repeated 12 times at the end of the SIGMET message.

**Kinshasa/ DRC**

- a) The word "TEST" should be repeated 12 times at the end of the SIGMET message.

**C – SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS AND DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED**

	<b>Operational Shortcomings and Deficiencies</b>	<b>VAAC, TCAC, RODBs or MWOs</b>
1	22 MWOs out of 35 in the AFI region (63%) did not issue any WV SIGMET during the Test period. This is an improvement of 5.5% compared to last year's results.	<b>ESAF (16):</b> Luanda, Bujumbura, Gaborone, Addis Ababa, Asmara, Lilongwe, Maputo, Windhoek, Kigali, Mahe, Mogadishu, Dar Es Salaam, Entebbe, Harare, Tripoli*, Khartoum* <b>WACAF (6):</b> Accra, Alger*, Gran Canaria*, *Monrovia, Tunis*, Casablanca *
2	19 MWOs out of 35 in the AFI region (54%) did not issue any WS SIGMET during the Test period. This is an improvement of 6 % compared to last year's results.	<b>ESAF (15):</b> Luanda, Gaborone, Bujumbura, Addis Ababa, Asmara, Tripoli*, Lilongwe, Windhoek, Kigali, Mogadishu*, Dar Es Salaam, Entebbe, Lusaka, Harare, Maputo. <b>WACAF (4):</b> Gran Canaria*, Monrovia, Tunis*, Casablanca*
3	4 MWOs out of 15 in the AFI region ( 44 %) did not issue any WC SIGMET during the Test	Bujumbura, Lilongwe, Dar Es Salaam, Harare.
4	The listed 13 MWOs (37%) have never issued any SIGMET during AFI SIGMET Tests.This is an improvement of 14 % compared to last year's results.	<b>ESAF (10)</b> Luanda, Bujumbura, Addis Ababa, Tripoli*, Lilongwe, Windhoek, Kigali, Dar Es Salaam, Lusaka, Harare. <b>WACAF (3):</b> Alger*, Gran Canaris*, Monrovia
5	3 MWOs did not use FF priority indicator to disseminate WS SIGMET.	Cairo*, Brazzaville, Dakar
6	3-MWOs did not use FF priority to disseminate WV SIGMET	Cairo*, Brazzaville, Sal, Dakar.
7	3 MWOs issued a WC SIGMET while it was not required	Cairo*, Khartoum, Accra
8	WC SIGMETs from 5 MWOs were received late at the RODBs, more than 10 mn after the advisory was issued by FMEE.	Nairobi, Mahe, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Accra,
9	WV SIGMETs from 4 MWOs were received late at the RODBs, more than 10 mn after the advisory was issued by LFPW	Mauritius, Nairobi, Sal, Antananarivo.
10	2 MWO issued WS SIGMETs with an incorrect weather phenomena description or no weather phenomenon when there should have been	Cairo*, Brazzaville.
11	Nine (9) MWOs issued SIGMET test messages without including a line of 12 "TEST" at the end of the SIGMET message	Sal, Kinshasa, Cairo, Accra, Nairobi, Antananarivo, Mauritius, Khartoum, Lusaka

HECA\*: MWOs in the AFI region but not accredited to ESAF and WACAF

## **D – RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Recommendation 1: SIGMET Issuance and Dissemination**

It is recommended that:

- a) The States providing the Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) listed in column 3 of the above Table, endeavor to address the identified deficiencies in the issuance and dissemination of SIGMET (APIRG/18, Conclusion 18/52).
- b) The Regional Offices concerned take the required measures to:
  1. Inform through email correspondent, and visit the listed 10 MWO Provider accredited States which have never issued any SIGMET during AFI SIGMET Tests; and
  2. Encourage through State Letters, three non-accredited States which have never issued any SIGMET during AFI SIGMET Tests.

### **Recommendation 2: Removing Operational Shortcomings**

It is recommended that:

- a) HECA, GVAC, GOOY and FCBB use the priority indicator FF to disseminate SIGMETs;
- b) HKJK, FISIA, HSSS, DGAA, GVAC, FMMI, FIMP Meteorological Watch Offices (MWOs) issue SIGMETs within the required time period i.e. not more than 10 mn after the issuance of the advisories.
- c) GVAC, FZAA, HECA, DGAA, HKJK, FMMI, FIMP, HSSS, FLLS, MWO'S include a line with the word "TEST" twelve (12) at the end of the SIGMET test message.
- d) All MWOs use the correct SIGMET format when preparing the SIGMET message by including:
  1. a correct validity period.
  2. a correct weather phenomena description.
  3. the ICAO indicator of the corresponding FIR at the beginning of the main text of the SIGMET.
  4. a hyphen at the end of the line containing the validity period.
  5. the MWO ICAO indicator just after the validity period.
  6. the word "VALID" just before the validity period.