



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

MET/TF/2 — WP/05
16/02/24

**Second Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group
(NACC/WG) Aeronautical Meteorology (MET) Task Force (TF) (MET/TF/02)**

Mexico City, Mexico, 27 February to 1 March 2024

Agenda Item 3: Implementation needs and expectations.

ROUTING OPMET DATA IN THE REGION

(Presented by Mexico and United States)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper presents how Mexico and United States worked together to solve OPMET (METAR, SPECI, TREND, TAF, SIGMET, AIRMET) distribution for international use.

Action:	The Meeting is invited to note the information in this working paper.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICAO Annex 3. SARPS 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.4, 11.1.5, Ap3 3.1.1, Ap.10 1.1

1. Introduction

1.1 In January 2024 the Mexican Aviation Met Service contacted the Aviation Weather Center (AWC) inquiring about some new and missing OPMET. This working paper serves as a way to record that successful engagement, so that other Met Service in our region can do the same thing if needed as well.

2. Discussion

2.1 Data connections used in our region for OPMET distribution can vary. Mexico uses Air Traffic Services Message Handling System (AMHS) to connect the United States, and then to the Washington Inter-regional OPMET Gateway (IROG). AMHS is the standard for aeronautical ground-ground communications including Meteorological Data. Though other methods for our region may include ftp, and or email via the US National Weather Service EMail Data Input System (EDIS). In these ways, the Washington IROG can rely on Meteorological Services, Regional OPMET Centers (ROCs) and Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs) to ensure seamless global exchange of the required OPMET information.

2.2 Much of the discussion above is out of scope for today's WP. Instead, we can assume this process is working by reviewing the Aviation Weather Center AWCs web site at the following link: <https://aviationweather.gov/>.

2.3 If your OPMET data is all there, we usually assume no problems, but what if all or some is missing, or some other issue? Then what?

2.4 For the issue between Mexico and the United States we'll use the METAR, since that was the problem, but the process is no different for SIGMET or TAF.

- The Mexico Aviation Met Service utilizes several WMO ID collectives to send their data internationally,
- The data connection used is AMHS between Mexico and the United States,
- The Washington IROG receives the data, recognizes the data, stores the data and if required, forwards the data to additional customers. AWC is just one of many customers of the Washington IROG, so if your data is not showing up at AWC, the first place to start is the Washington IROG.

2.5 2.5 Data not showing up at AWC? Resolution:

- Check that the WMO ID is current and correct,
- New WMO IDs need to be catalogued at the Washington IROG to store and forward data, if it's a new collective, or for any OPMET data not showing up, contact the Washington IROG for resolution, see contact information below,
- This will ensure you have a ticket logged, and we can track,
- The Washington IROG receives most of the Worlds OPMET. It does this since AWC is one of two World Area Forecast Centers (WAFCs). To ensure that the Washington WAFc at AWC can meet its requirements for the Worlds OPMET, the Washington IROG will send the Worlds OPMET to AWC,
- So, while you can and should go to AWC for confirmation that your data are available and correct at the Station data and the Interactive maps; in this way, you ensure that your data is making it out to the world, AWC does not control the flow of OPMET. Therefore, you need to go to the Washington IROG to start the trouble shooting process,
- The issue between Mexico and the United States started at the Washington IROG, where they needed to add new Mexican METARs to their database. Then we needed to contact AWC to ensure the data was being plotted at the correct latitude and longitude. But overall starting with the Washington IROG is usually the best way to resolve your issues,
- The Washington IROG also goes by the following names, NWSTG, Washington RTH etc.

Start with (nco.ops@noaa.gov) +1 (301) 683-1518 and/or (SDM@noaa.gov) +1 (301) 683-1500
(please cc: michael.graf@noaa.gov)

3. Conclusion

3.1 Please note the information in this paper.

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