

Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3)

20-24 July 2015
Nuku'alofa
The Kingdom of Tonga

Agenda Item 12.1: Aviation Weather Services - Quality Management and Competency Standards

Purpose

1. The purpose of the document is to highlight the need for cooperative effort supported by the Pacific Meteorological Services in order to enable members of the Pacific Meteorological Council to achieve full compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and WMO requirements for quality management and competency of aeronautical meteorological personnel as a requisite part of the provision of meteorological services to aviation.

Background

Quality Management System

2. The ICAO and WMO requirements for the establishment of Quality Management System (QMS) for the provision of aeronautical meteorological service as of 15 November 2012 became a standard practice, supplemented by a set of recommendations on the conformity of the QMS with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9000 series of quality assurance standards. The Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) and its Task Team on QMS (TT-QMS) has been providing assistance to Members in the implementation of the QMS requirements. Concerted effort involving TT-QMS, the Secretariat, a number of Members with advanced expertise in QMS, and partner international organizations, the attained level of compliance with the QMS requirements reached 110 Members whose Aeronautical Meteorological Service Providers (AMSP) have implemented the QMS, in the majority of case with ISO 9001:2008 certification.

3. The current status of implementation of the QMS by the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) is not yet satisfactory. The QMS certification has been completed only by Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, while all other countries were yet to finalize the process. Nevertheless, valuable assistance by Australia and Finland, have given opportunities to almost all the PICTs to participate in QMS training programme(s) and have initiated the implementation of QMS procedures and principles in their respective National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) (also AMSPs). Experts who have received training, including as QMS auditors, are fully capable to conduct the

necessary QMS tasks, however lack of financial resources and limited human resources impede the completion of the QMS implementation, including the external audit and certification.

4. It should be understood that the lack QMS for the provision of aeronautical meteorological service qualifies as an “air navigation deficiency” and puts those NMHSs (also AMSPs) in an adverse situation including liabilities that affect not only the NMHS but also the responsible civil aviation authorities. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to prioritize the completion of QMS implementation which should imply: a) enhanced cooperation between the national authorities concerned in order to ensure the necessary resources; and b) twinning between the PICTs and the resource countries in the region, assisted by WMO, as an efficient collaborative mechanism for achieving the goal of full compliance with the QMS requirements.

Competency Requirements for Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel

5. The provisions of the WMO Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49, Volume I, Chapter 5), concerning the required competency of Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel (AMP), including Aeronautical Meteorological Forecasters (AMF) and Aeronautical Meteorological Observers (AMO), became standard practices as of 1 December 2013. Consequently, all PICTs are expected to undertake the necessary measures to ensure compliance with those standards and inform the WMO Secretariat thereof.

6. The CAeM has provided ample implementation guidance on the AMP competency assessment that could be reached through the WMO website: http://www.wmo.int/aemp/implementation_areas. In addition, regional trainings on competency assessment have been organized in all WMO Regions including the PICTs’ region.

7. All PICTs have been urged to develop their national competency assessment programmes, including respective target dates. Such national programmes differ in complexity and resources demand, in accordance with the number of AMP staff to be assessed. In some PICTs, the task could be further complicated due to limited of financial and human resources, and staff being located in remote locations. In case of identified gaps in the competency of the AMP, the respective Meteorological Authority (MA) should undertake remedial actions by providing tailored training and supervision. It should also be noted that once the initial staff competency has been completed for all staff, that national competency assessment programmes should envisage regular checks (with interval of, e.g., 2-3 years), to ensure that the competencies are maintained at the required level.

8. The WMO requirements for the competency of the AMP should be regarded as complementary to the ICAO Safety Management System (SMS) by ensuring that all NMHSs (also AMSPs) personnel engaged in the provision of information and services to aviation is sufficiently competent, thus preventing mistakes due to incompetence. Therefore, all members of PMC are strongly encouraged to establish their national competency assessment programmes and complete the assessment of their AMP staff as soon as possible. WMO, through the CAeM Expert Team on Education, Training and Competencies (ET-ETC), appropriate Regional Training Centres (RTC), and the WMO Secretariat, will assist this process and will address request for assistance by individual PICTs or sub-regions.

Recommendations

9. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the importance of achieving full compliance with the WMO and ICAO Quality Management and Competency Standards in the provision of aeronautical meteorological services,
 - **Recommends:**
 - (a) To assign high priority to quality management and competency standards and request SPREP, WMO, ICAO and resource countries in the region to continue and intensify their assistance to the PICTs;
 - (b) To establish bi-lateral twinning agreements targeting QMS and competency assessment implementation,
 - (c) To include appropriate work packages in on-going and future projects to ensure funding for sustainable implementation of the ICAO and WMO requirements;
 - **Endorses** a regional target of resolving existing deficiencies related to the compliance with the WMO and ICAO quality management and competency standards.
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Attachments

Nil

18 July 2015