

Annex 3 provisions concerning meteorological authority, quality management of meteorological information and competency of aeronautical meteorological personnel

1. Role of MET authority

1.1. The role of ‘meteorological authority’ is defined in ICAO Annex 3. The designation of meteorological authority comprises some of the fundamental requirements pertaining to the provision of meteorological service for international air navigation. It should be noted that the meteorological authority is not necessarily the same role as undertaken by the civil aviation authority.

1.2. Annex 3 states that:

[2.1.4] Each Contracting State shall designate the authority, hereinafter referred to as the meteorological authority, to provide or to arrange for the provision of meteorological service for international air navigation on its behalf. Details of the meteorological authority so designated shall be included in the State aeronautical information publication, in accordance with Annex 15, Appendix 1, GEN 1.1.

1.3. Importantly, the meteorological authority’s responsibilities include the quality assurance of the meteorological service. To carry out its functions, the meteorological authority is required to make decisions, take actions and provide advice, largely of a technical nature, in the field of aeronautical meteorology.

1.4. A significant role of the meteorological authority is to consult with and establish agreement(s) with other authorities and the operators and users concerned with the provision of meteorological service for international civil aviation. In particular, the meteorological authority is required to reach agreement with the air traffic services (ATS) authority on detailed and comprehensive aspects of the exchange and use of the meteorological information required in support of the air traffic system.

1.5. In addition to consulting with ATS, the meteorological authority is also required to coordinate with the civil aviation authority concerning some aspects of the meteorological information and systems supplied and, similarly, considerable consultation and agreement is necessary between the meteorological authority and the operators and users to determine on a number of requirements concerning the meteorological information and services to be provided.

1.6. It is evident that the role requires technical knowledge and close coordination with service providers, however maintaining independence of the meteorological authority from the service providers may in some cases facilitate accountability with respect to important aspects such as quality assurance.

2. Quality management of meteorological information

2.1. Annex 3 SARPs concerning the quality management of meteorological information are contained in Chapter 2 – *General provisions*. These comprise some of the fundamental requirements pertaining to the provision of meteorological service for international air navigation.

3. Competency of aeronautical meteorological personnel

3.1. An amendment is proposed for inclusion in Annex 3 (under Chapter 2 – *General provisions*) that would provide greater clarity with regard to the qualification and competency, education and training of personnel engaged in the provision of meteorological service for international air navigation (i.e.

aeronautical meteorological personnel). The proposal brings the ICAO provisions in line with the requirements of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in this regard (ICAO State letter AN 10/1-17/41 refers).

3.2. A copy of the amendment proposal is provided below for reference:

CHAPTER 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.1 Objective, determination and provision of meteorological service

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2.1.5 Each Contracting State shall ensure that the designated meteorological authority complies with the requirements of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in respect of qualifications, ~~and~~ competencies, education and training of meteorological personnel providing service for international air navigation.

Note.— Requirements concerning the qualifications, ~~and~~ competencies, education and training of meteorological personnel in aeronautical meteorology are given in the Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49), Volume I — General Meteorological Standards and Recommended Practices, Part V — Qualifications and Competencies of Personnel Involved in the Provision of Meteorological (Weather and Climate) and Hydrological Services, Part VI — Education and Training of Meteorological Personnel, and Appendix A — Basic Instruction Packages.