



**RWANDA**

**CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**

**ADVISORY CIRCULAR  
RCAA-AC- MET 002C**

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF  
METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION TO AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES,  
SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES AND AERONAUTICAL  
INFORMATION SERVICES**

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**1.0 PURPOSE**

This Advisory Circular provides guidance on technical specifications related to the provision of meteorological information to the air traffic services, search and rescue services and aeronautical information services.

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## **2.0 References**

2.1 Part 24 of Rwanda Civil Aviation Regulations

2.2 Rwanda Civil Aviation Technical Standards for Aeronautical MET Services (RCATS-MET001).

2.3 ICAO Doc 8896 Manual of Aeronautical Meteorological Practices

2.4 ICAO Doc 9377 Manual on coordination between ATS, AIS and Aeronautical Meteorological Services

## **3.0 Guidance Information**

### **3.1 Scope**

The scope of this advisory circular includes technical specifications related to the type and format of information required for the provision of aerodrome control, approach control, area control, flight information service, search and rescue services, aeronautical information services, Aeronautical telecommunications services, supply of information on volcanic ash, volcanic eruptions and for supersonic aircraft.

### **3.2 Information to be provided for Air Traffic Services unit**

#### **3.2.1 List of information for the aerodrome control tower**

The following meteorological information shall be supplied, as necessary, to an aerodrome control tower by aerodrome meteorological office:

- a) local routine reports, local special reports, METAR, SPECI, TAF, trend forecasts and amendments thereto;
- b) SIGMET information, wind shear warnings and alerts and aerodrome warnings;
- c) any additional meteorological information agreed upon locally, such as forecasts of surface wind for the determination of possible runway changes;
- d) information received on volcanic ash cloud, for which a SIGMET has not already been issued; and

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- e) information received on pre-eruption volcanic activity and/or a volcanic eruption.

### **3.2.2 List of information for the approach control office**

The following meteorological information shall be supplied, as necessary, to an approach control office by its associated aerodrome meteorological office:

- a) local routine and special reports, METAR and SPECI, including current pressure data , TAF and trend forecasts and amendments thereto,
- b) SIGMET information, wind shear warnings and appropriate special air-reports for the airspace with which the approach control office is concerned and aerodrome warnings;
- c) any additional meteorological information that may be required and agreed between MET and ATS ;
- d) information received on volcanic ash cloud, for which a SIGMET has not already been issued;
- e) information received on pre-eruption volcanic activity and/or a volcanic eruption.

### **3.2.3 List of information for the area control and flight information centre**

The following meteorological information shall be supplied, as necessary, to a flight information centre or an area control centre by its associated meteorological watch office:

- a) METAR and SPECI, including current pressure data for aerodromes and other locations, TAF and trend forecasts and amendments thereto, covering the flight information region (FIR) or covering aerodromes in neighbouring FIRs, as determined by regional air navigation agreement;
- b) forecasts of upper winds, upper-air temperatures and significant en-route weather phenomena and amendments thereto, particularly those which are likely to make operation under visual flight rules impracticable, SIGMET information and appropriate special air-reports for the FIR determined by regional air navigation agreement and required by the FIC or ACC, for neighbouring FIRs;

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- c) any other meteorological information required by the FIC or ACC to meet requests from aircraft in flight; if the information requested is not available in the associated meteorological watch office (MWO), that office shall request the assistance of another meteorological office in supplying it;
  - d) information received on volcanic ash cloud, for which a SIGMET has not already been issued, as agreed between the meteorological and ATS authorities concerned;
  - e) information received concerning the release of radioactive material into the atmosphere, as agreed between the meteorological and ATS authorities concerned;
  - f) volcanic ash advisory information issued by a volcanic ash advisory centre in its area of responsibility; and
  - g) information received on pre-eruption volcanic activity and/or a volcanic eruption as agreed between the meteorological and ATS authorities concerned.

#### **3.2.4 Supply of information to aeronautical telecommunications stations**

Current meteorological reports and forecasts shall be supplied to aeronautical telecommunication stations for flight information purpose when this information is required. A copy of such information shall be forwarded, if required, to the flight information centre or the area control centre.

#### **3.2.5 Format of information**

Local routine and special reports, METAR and SPECI, TAF and trend forecasts, SIGMET information, upper wind and upper-air temperature forecasts and amendments thereto should be supplied to air traffic services units in the format in which they are prepared, disseminated to other meteorological offices or received from other meteorological offices or Meteorological watch offices.

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### **3.3 Information to be provided for Search and Rescue services unit**

#### **3.3.1 List of information**

Information to be supplied to rescue coordination centres shall include the meteorological conditions that existed in the last known position of a missing aircraft and along the intended route of that aircraft with particular reference to:

- a) significant en-route weather phenomena;
- b) cloud amount and type, particularly cumulonimbus; height indications of bases and tops;
- c) visibility and phenomena reducing visibility;
- d) surface wind and upper wind if available;
- e) state of ground, in particular, any flooding cover;
- f) pressure data.
- g) any other meteorological data/information that may be required by SAR unit

#### **3.3.2 Information to be provided on request**

- a) on request from the rescue coordination centre, the designated meteorological office should arrange to obtain details of the flight documentation which was supplied to the missing aircraft, together with any amendments to the forecast which were transmitted to the aircraft in flight;
- b) to facilitate search and rescue operations the designated meteorological office should, on request, supply:
  - (i) complete and detailed information on the current and forecast meteorological conditions in the search area; and
  - (ii) current and forecast conditions en route, covering flights by search aircraft from and returning to the aerodrome from which the search is being conducted.

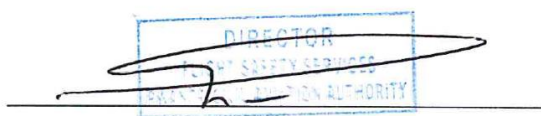
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- c) on request from the rescue coordination centre, the designated meteorological office should supply or arrange for the supply of meteorological information required by ships undertaking search and rescue operations

### **3.4 Information to be provided for Aeronautical Information Services Unit**

#### **3.4.1 List of information**

The following information shall be supplied, as necessary, to an aeronautical information services unit:

- a) information on meteorological service for international air navigation, intended for inclusion in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP);
- b) information necessary for the preparation of NOTAM or ASHTAM including, in particular, information on:
  - (i) the establishment, withdrawal and significant changes in operation of aeronautical MET services. This information is required to be provided to the aeronautical information services unit sufficiently in advance of the effective date to permit issuance of NOTAM in compliance with RCATS-AIS001, Chapter 5
  - (ii) the occurrence of volcanic activity;
  - (iii) accidental release of radioactive materials into the atmosphere.
- c) information necessary for the preparation of aeronautical information circulars including, in particular, information on:
  - (i) expected important changes in aeronautical meteorological procedures, services and facilities provided;
  - (ii) effect of certain weather phenomena on aircraft operations



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