

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat
7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

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20 April 2020

Subject: Preliminary guidelines for aeronautical meteorological service providers of WMO Members impacted by the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to the Secretary-General's letter reference 06432/2020/S/DPS-COVID 19 dated 2 April 2020, in which he drew attention to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation and impact on the operations of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). The letter commended the pro-active steps being taken by WMO Members and their NMHSs to mitigate the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on essential national, regional and global service delivery commitments.

In this regard, I should like to note that a majority of WMO Members have, through their NMHS or non-NMHS aeronautical meteorological service providers (AMSPs), responsibility to provide meteorological facilities and services to international civil aviation in accordance with the Standards and Recommended Practices in *Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49), Volume II, *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*. Note, WMO-No. 49, Volume II corresponds to the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Annex 3 to the Convention of International Civil Aviation.

Together, WMO-No. 49, Volume II and ICAO Annex 3 provide the regulatory frameworks of meteorological service for international air navigation. Meteorological facilities and services are provided on a local, national, regional and global basis across a spectrum of aeronautical meteorological stations, aerodrome meteorological offices (which may or may not be physically located at the aerodrome) and meteorological watch offices as well as regional and global centres comprising world area forecast centres, volcanic ash advisory centres, tropical cyclone advisory centres and space weather advisory centres.

In view of a need for business continuity of aeronautical meteorological service providers (AMSPs) at this unprecedented time, I am pleased to inform you that preliminary guidelines have been developed by the Secretariat with the assistance of the president of the Services Commission to assist AMSPs to manage the risks and to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on service delivery to aviation. These preliminary guidelines cover, inter alia, international obligations and contingency measures implemented by some AMSPs as well as resources on quality management, risk management, business continuity and cost recovery. These preliminary guidelines are available at the following URL (currently in English only):

<https://community.wmo.int/activity-areas/aviation/covid-19>

The Secretariat, with the assistance of the Services Commission and in coordination with ICAO, will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications on Members and their AMSPs with a view to determining if further guidelines are necessary. In this connection, it would be advantageous to receive feedback from AMSPs on the specific challenges they may be encountering and the mitigations they may be implementing during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, for those Members who may not yet be significantly

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be advantageous to receive feedback on how your AMSP(s) are making preparations to maintain services in the event that the pandemic arrives and/or escalates within your country. Such feedback can be submitted, on a voluntary basis, by the AMSPs to the WMO Secretariat of the Services for Aviation Division via email (covid19@wmo.int). WMO may use some of the feedback obtained from AMSPs in the improvement of the referred preliminary guidelines, should this be necessary. In addition, over time, WMO may, through Members, request AMSPs to provide feedback on the lessons learned and experiences gained during the response and recovery to the pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to echo the closing remarks of the Secretary-General in his letter of 2 April 2020 by expressing my deep appreciation for your continued support to the activities of WMO during this difficult time and to convey my sincerest sympathies and thoughts with all those who may be affected.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Manaenkova', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General