

# AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 21/13

## CHANGE TO ICAO COMPLIANT FIR-BASED SIGMET AND AIRMET BULLETINS

(Replaces AIC 14/13)

In response to a formal request from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on behalf of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Canada will be converting to an ICAO-compliant significant meteorological information (SIGMET) and aviation weather advisory (AIRMET) bulletin format effective 14 November 2013.

The following is a brief summary of changes that will be made to Canadian SIGMET and AIRMET bulletins.

### 1. **Parallel Bulletins**

An international version and a national version of SIGMET and AIRMET bulletins will be issued. The national bulletin version will contain additional information considered important for domestic use.

### 2. **Frame of Reference Change (from GFA to FIR)**

SIGMET and AIRMET bulletins will be issued in accordance with flight information region (FIR) boundaries rather than graphic area forecast (GFA) boundaries.

### 3. **Bulletin Header**

All SIGMET and AIRMET bulletins will have a common header (CWAO) regardless of which aviation forecast centre (Canadian Meteorological Aviation Centre [CMAC]) actually issues the bulletin. The forecast centre identifier will continue to be included in the body.

### 4. **ATS Unit Identification**

The area control centre (ACC) unit serving the FIR to which the SIGMET refers will be indicated in the body of the bulletin.

### 5. **Alphanumeric Bulletin Sequence**

The bulletin number scheme has been significantly changed to conform to ICAO standards. Bulletin sequence numbers will be automatically reset daily for SIGMET or AIRMET bulletins issued after 00Z.

### 6. **Validity Period**

While the SIGMET and AIRMET validity period remains essentially the same, bulletins can be issued in advance of a "forecast" significant weather event.

### 7. **FIR Identification and Name**

The FIR will be clearly indicated in the body of the bulletin.

### 8. **Weather Event Description and Location**

The order of the weather event description will be changed so that it will precede the location of the weather event. This is opposite to what is currently done.

**9. Latitude and Longitude Format**

A minor change will be made to the geographic coordinate format within the body of the bulletin. The national bulletin version will continue to include a description for each geographic coordinate used to describe the position of a weather event by use of aviation reference points.

**10. Aviation Reference Points (National Bulletin Version Only)**

The current meteorological reference map will be replaced with a new set of “aviation-relevant” reference points consisting of Canadian airport identifiers extracted from the *Canada Flight Supplement*.

**Example 1 – Current SIGMET Bulletin**

WSCN33 CWUL 162225

SIGMET A4 VALID 162225/170225 CWUL-

WTN 20 NM OF LN /4929N09449W/25 SW KENORA - /5104N09348W/RED LAKE - /5209N09120W/60 NW PICKLE LAKE.

BKN LN TS OBSD ON RDR/SAT PIX/LTNG DTCTR. MAX TOPS 340.

LN MOVG EWD 15KT.

LTL CHG EXPD

END/GFA33/CMAC-E/GR/GR

**Example 2 – New National SIGMET Bulletin**

WSCN23 CWAO 162225

CZWG SIGMET A4 VALID 162225/170225 CWEG-

CZWG WINNIPEG FIR SQLN TS OBS WTN 20NM OF LINE /N4929 W09449/25 SW CYQK – /N5104 W09348/CYRL – N5209 W09120/60 NW CYPL TOP FL340 MOV E 15KT NC

RMK GFACN32=

**Example 3 – New International SIGMET Bulletin**

WSCN03 CWAO 162225

CZWG SIGMET A4 VALID 162225/170225 CWEG-

CZWG WINNIPEG FIR SQLN TS OBS WTN 20NM OF LINE N4929 W09449 –

N5104 W09348 – N5209 W09120 TOP FL340 MOV E 15KT NC=

**Publication Changes**

The *Transport Canada Aeronautical Information Manual* (TC AIM – TP 14371E) will be amended in the October 2013 release.

## Validity

The changes described in this AIC become effective 14 November 2013. For further information, please contact:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Montgomery', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chuck Montgomery  
Director, AIS and Flight Inspection