

Reprint 514

D-VOLMET service of Hong Kong, China

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International Civil Aviation Organization

Seventh Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 21 July 2003

Agenda Item 9: Exchange of OPMET information

D-VOLMET SERVICE OF HONG KONG, CHINA

(Presented by Hong Kong, China)

Summary

This paper reports on the implementation of VOLMET data link (D-VOLMET) service in Hong Kong, China.

1. Introduction

1.1 Hong Kong, China implemented the data link VOLMET (D-VOLMET) service within the Hong Kong Flight Information Region (FIR)/Area of Responsibility (AOR) on 19 April 2001. The service has been operating in parallel with the VOLMET radio voice broadcast service since then.

2. The Service

2.1 The message made available in the D-VOLMET service is the same as that provided in the voice broadcast service. It includes the following information:

- SIGMET for the Hong Kong FIR/AOR (if issued)
- METAR/SPECI & TREND type landing forecast for Hong Kong (VHHH)
- METAR/SPECI & TREND type landing forecast for Guangzhou (ZGGG)
- METAR/SPECI for Naha (ROAH)
- METAR/SPECI & TREND type landing forecast for Taipei (RCTP)
- METAR/SPECI & TREND type landing forecast for Gaoxiong (RCKH)
- METAR/SPECI & TREND type landing forecast for Manila (RPLL)
- METAR/SPECI & TREND type landing forecast for Mactan (RPVM)
- 9-hour TAF for Hong Kong (VHHH)

2.2 The message is updated immediately when new information pertaining to its content is received. Aircraft equipped with the appropriate Aircraft Communication, Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS) hardware and software can retrieve the D-VOLMET messages via the SITA Aircom network. The message is uplinked and automatically printed inside the cockpit within half a minute on average.

3. Benefit

3.1 The benefits of the D-VOLMET service to aircraft are:

- Reduced workload for the pilot
- Removal of error due to reception and transcription of radio broadcast messages
- Retrieval at will by the pilot
- Most updated weather information
- Reception not limited by radio coverage
- Short delivery time
- Quick access to specific information in the VOLMET message

4. Action by the Meeting

4.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided in this paper.