

SIGMET Coordination between MWO (Meteorological Watch Office) Bratislava and MWO Praha

In order to prevent inconsistencies between Slovak and Czech SIGMETs concerning observed or forecast cross border weather phenomena, coordination between meteorologists of the aviation weather services of Czech Hydrometeorological Institute and Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute is deemed necessary. Such coordination aims to provide consistent forecasts of hazardous phenomena which ensures that all stakeholders, especially operators and air traffic control service providers, are basing their decisions on consistent, coherent, consolidated and harmonized meteorological information.

In the first initial phase it seems to be sufficient to have a quite simple coordination process, consisting of a short phone call just notifying and explaining the SIGMET one of both MWOs has issued. This procedure can be enhanced sometime at a later stage when it is assumed that the forecasters of both offices are sufficiently familiar with the coordination process and willing to go more into detail.

Coordination process:

MWO Praha and MWO Bratislava shall coordinate the SIGMETs with regard to weather phenomena concerning Praha FIR and Bratislava FIR. The coordination process is initiated when either MWO Praha or MWO Bratislava issued a SIGMET for the own FIR which may also affect the other FIR and vice versa. The coordination should be done via phone calls.

The phone calls is initiated by respective MWO after issuing SIGMET as soon as possible with regard to the working schedules. The caller should clearly identify who is calling, from which MWO and State. It should also be clearly stated that the purpose of the call is SIGMET coordination and the phone calls should content base information about issued SIGMET (phenomenon, validity, vertical scale, movement etc.) and the reason of issuing SIGMET. For this first initial phase it is not intended to discuss on content or location etc. The short call should just be for information only and be a possibility to start to get to know each other.

The adjacent MWO should also be consulted in relation to any cancellation and reissuance of SIGMET that may affect the neighbouring states' area of responsibility.

The goal of the phone calls, initiated by the respective MWO, is to reach a consensus about the content (validity period, geographical area and vertical scale) of the SIGMETs, in order to provide consistent information to the aviation community.

It has been agreed that MWO Praha and MWO Bratislava shall coordinate the necessary SIGMETs with regard to weather phenomena concerning Praha FIR and Bratislava FIR.

When it is estimated that a phenomenon observed and/or expected to justify a SIGMET or VA SIGMET may also affect the adjacent FIR, MWO Praha or MWO Bratislava shall initiate a phone call as soon as possible with regard to the working schedules.

The phone calls will be in Slovak and Czech language. Examples of sentences used for the short phone call are shown in the Appendix A (in English), A.1 (in Slovak) and A.2 (in Czech).

This agreement is efficient until it is terminated by either party or replaced by a new agreement.

Remark: There is no coordination in case of heavy sandstorms, heavy duststorms, heavy mountain wave and tropical cyclones.

The first initial phase of SIGMET coordination shall begin on 1st December 2021.

Telephone numbers:

MWO Praha:

MWO Bratislava:

For a fruitful collaboration it shall be noted that professional approach includes acknowledgement of the validity of additional opinions from fellow professionals. Therefore the forecasters of one MWO shall always be receptive and open-minded to the ideas/opinions of the forecasters of the adjacent MWO.

Map of Bratislava FIR and Praha FIR:



Next step sometime in the future:

Operations instructions (not operative now, planned for the future):

When it is estimated that a meteorological phenomenon observed and/or expected to justify the issuance of a SIGMET that may also affect the adjacent FIR, the respective MWO should initiate coordination as soon as possible. In such a case the MWO contacts the MWO of the neighboring FIR via telephone consultation to discuss content and proposed location on the boundary. The purpose of this coordination process is to allow for consistency of SIGMETs in terms of proposed content, horizontal position, vertical extent, severity, timing and movements (including speed) of SIGMET phenomena between FIR regions with mutual boundaries. Ideally the aeronautical meteorological forecasters (AMFs) of both MWOs agree on the content of the SIGMET. But in any case of disagreement each MWO retains the ultimate right to issue the SIGMET as it considers most appropriate. If it is not possible to coordinate the SIGMET before publication, the respective MWO should inform the adjacent MWO retrospectively regarding the issuance of the SIGMET. In relation to any cancellation and re-issuance of SIGMET that may affect adjacent states' area of responsibility, the adjacent MWO should also be consulted.

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Date and signature

25 -11- 2021

Mark Rieder
director of
Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

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Date and signature

06 DEC. 2021

Martin Benko
director general of
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute

Koordinácia vydávania informácií SIGMET medzi leteckou meteorologickou služobňou Bratislava a leteckou meteorologickou služobňou Praha

Z dôvodu aby sa predišlo nekonzistencii vo vydávaní leteckej výstražnej informácie SIGMET v oblasti hraničného pásma medzi Slovenskou republikou a Českou republikou, je potrebná koordinácia medzi službukonajúcimi prognostikmi/meteorológmi leteckých meteorologických služieb Slovenskej a Českej republiky. Takáto koordinácia sa zameriava na poskytovanie konzistentných predpovedí nebezpečných javov počasia pre letectvo (na ktoré sa informácia SIGMET má vydávať) čo zaisťuje že všetky zainteresované strany najmä leteckí prevádzkovatelia, letové prevádzkové služby a pod. zakladajú svoje rozhodnutia na konzistentných, koherentných, konsolidovaných a harmonizovaných leteckých meteorologických informáciách. Koordinácia medzi dotknutými leteckými meteorologickými služobňami bude vykonávaná prostredníctvom telefonického hovoru. Letecké meteorologické služobne (Bratislava a Praha) budú koordinovať SIGMETy s ohľadom na poveternostné javy týkajúce sa letovej informačnej oblasti (ďalej len FIR) Bratislava a Praha a samotný koordináčny proces začína momentom keď ktorákoľvek strana pre svoju FIR vydá informáciu SIGMET ktorá však môže ovplyvniť aj FIR druhej strany. Telefonickú koordináciu iniciuje príslušná letecká meteorologická služobňa čo najskôr po vydaní informácie SIGMET s ohľadom na pracovné vyťaženie. Dotknuté letecké meteorologické služobne by mali spolu konzultovať aj akékoľvek zrušenie a opätovné vydanie informácie SIGMET, ktoré môže ovplyvniť susedné FIR.