

# Data Designators for OPMET information in XML

## Manual on GTS Att II-5

Date: 19 September 2013

### 1. Background

From November 2013, ICAO will permit XML to be used to exchange operational information in support of international civil aviation activities. WMO and ICAO have jointly developed an XML representation of the information content of the METAR, SPECI, TAF and SIGMET Traditional Alphanumeric Codes (TAC). This is known as aviation XML (AvXML).

Data designators are part of the WMO Abbreviated Heading Line (AHL) and are used to identify messages exchanged on the AFS and GTS. Their structure is  $T_1T_2A_1A_2ii$ . The combination of  $T_1T_2A_1A_2$  provides information on the topic of the message, its geographic coverage and its format.

Message switches in general use only the data designator and originating centre to determine where a message should be sent, so it is necessary to introduce additional designators for messages using XML to avoid messages in XML being sent to centres that are unable to handle them. Therefore, a new set of data designators will be required to describe messages in AvXML.

### 2. Consultation

From 23 August 2013 to 6 September 2013, IPET-DRMM and WIS, GTS and Data Codes Focal Points were asked to comment on a proposal for data designators to denote describe information in AvXML.

The feedback was:

- 1) The use of  $T_1=L$  would not cause problems with message switches
- 2) Using only one character for geographic area, as in Table C2, would cause operational problems because it would not provide enough detail
- 3) Relying on  $T_2$  to denote GTS priority would not cause problems
- 4) It would be desirable to use the same  $T_2$  as for the Traditional Alphanumeric Codes
- 5) There was a robust discussion about how to handle the conflict between Short TAF and Tropical Cyclone SIGMETs if  $T_2$  for XML messages were to be the same as for the TAC.

The final scheme:

- a) retains  $A_1A_2$  (addressing feedback item 2)
- b) re-uses the  $T_2$  corresponding to the TAC where possible.

The proposal that has been passed to Presidnet WMO for approval is in section 3.

### 3. Text for approval

From 1 November 2013 AvXML format should be given the data designators starting with  $T_1=L$  as specified in the amended Manual on Codes.

Make the following changes to Attachment II-5 to WMO-No. 386 *the Manual on the Global Telecommunication System*

In Table A, replace the row for  $T_1=L$

$T_1$	Data Type	$T_2$	$A_1$	$A_2$	ii	Priority	$T_1$
<del>L</del>	-						<del>L</del>
<u>L</u>	<u>Aviation information in XML</u>				<u>(2)</u>	<u>1/2/3</u>	<u>L</u>

Add Table B7

**Table B7**  
Data designator T2 (when T1 = L)

<u>T<sub>2</sub></u> <u>DESIGNATOR</u>	<u>DATA TYPE</u>	<u>GTS</u> <u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>CODE</u> <u>FORM</u> <u>NAME</u>
A	Aviation routine reports ("METAR")	2	
C	Aerodrome Forecast ("TAF") (VT < 12 hours)	3	
P	Special aviation weather reports ("SPECI")	2	
S	Aviation General warning ("SIGMET")	1	
T	Aerodrome Forecast ("TAF") (VT > 12 hours)	3	
V	Aviation Volcanic Ash warning ("SIGMET")	1	
Y	Aviation Tropical Cyclone warning ("SIGMET")	1	

Note: Data with T<sub>1</sub> = L and T<sub>2</sub> = A, C, P, S, T, V and Y are exchanged in AvXML - aviation XML. Aviation XML is expected to be assigned a FM number in the future