

**Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Cross Polar Trans East Air Traffic Management Providers'
Work Group (CPWG/26)**

(Vancouver, Canada October 30-November 1, 2018)

Agenda Item x:

Volcanic Activity Controller/Pilot Data Link Communications Messages

(Action Item CP15-06, CP18-02)

(Presented by the United States)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information describing a lack of information regarding volcanic ash information dissemination within the Global Operational Data Link (GOLD) Manual, ICAO Doc 10037 and the Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Air Traffic Management (PANS-ATM), ICAO Doc 4444.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. There was discussion at VOLKAM/17 regarding the dissemination of volcanic ash information to flight crews via Controller/Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC). It was noted that there is no defined CPDLC message for volcanic ash information in the GOLD or in Doc 4444.
- 1.2. During a separate discussion with Hawaiian Airlines, designed to garner information about what procedures that operator has in place to deal with volcanic activity, the lack of a dedicated, formatted, CPDLC message to share volcanic ash information bi-directionally was noted.

2 Discussion

- 2.1. In the oceanic environment, CPDLC is one of the primary communication methods in use; the other being voice, whether by SATVOICE, HF, or VHF. With voice communications there are prescribed phraseologies, uses, and meanings.
- 2.2. A search of the GOLD reveals no instances of PIREP or pilot report. The Doc 4444 contains information about PIREPs and pilot reports, but does not contain CPDLC messages pertaining to them.
- 2.3. When Hawaiian Airlines was asked what information they would like to see in such a message, if it were to be standardized, they did not have any suggestions for specific message language but felt the following three areas of information be included in the message:
 - a) The current location of the volcanic ash; and
 - b) The direction of movement of the ash; and
 - c) The current altitude of the ash.
- 2.4. When a couple of members of the Communications Panel (CP) – Operational Data Link Working Group (OPDLWG) were queried about the process for introducing a new message to the GOLD and Doc

4444 for volcanic ash conditions. In response the members suggested that either the Volcanic Groups (VOLKAM and/or VOLCEX) or the Cross Polar Working Group put forward a request for amendment to the CP – OPDLWG.

3 Recommendation

3.1. The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this paper;
- b) Develop a draft proposal for volcanic ash dissemination CPDLC messages; and
- c) Coordinate the effort with the Volcanic working groups as necessary.