CPWG/27
WP/08

Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Cross Polar Trans East Air Traffic Management Providers’ Work
Group (CPWG/27)

(Singapore, 22-24 October 2019)

Agenda Item 7: Status on CPWG/26 Actions

VOLCEX19

(Action Item #CP23-01)

(Presented by Isavia)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>SUMMARY</th>
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<td>A summary of Volcanic Ash Exercises, VOLCEX19 in the NAT Regions is provided.</td>
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1. **Introduction**

1.1 The meeting may recall that the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG) Programme Coordinating Group (COG) and North Atlantic Implementation Management Group (NAT/IMG) established the Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Groups for the EUR and NAT Regions (VOLCEX/SG) in order to initiate and maintain a programme of regular volcanic ash exercises in the EUR/NAT Regions. One of the main goals of these exercises is to exercise the volcanic ash contingency plan for the EUR and NAT Regions (according to EUR Doc 019, NAT Doc 006, Part II). Typically, one exercise called VOLCEX is planned and conducted by the VOLCEX/SG each year.

1.2 The objectives of the exercises are to improve the response to volcanic eruptions and volcanic ash contamination by the relevant national supervisory authorities, service providers (ATS, AIS, ATFM, MET) and airspace users as well as improve the common volcanic ash contingency plan for the EUR and NAT Regions (EUR Doc 019, NAT Doc 006, Part II). The Network Manager of EUROCONTROL plays an active role in VOLCEX, in exercising and evaluating the crisis coordination between various stakeholders through the EACCC (European Aviation Crisis Coordination Cell) and the AOCCC (Aircraft Operator Crisis Coordination Cell).

2. **Discussion**

VOLCEX19

2.1 VOLCEX19 objectives are provided in Appendix A. They are based on outcome of VOLCEX18.

2.2 VOLCEX19 will simulate a volcano eruption of Vesuvio, Italy and will take place on 20 November 2019 from 0800-1600 UTC. The simulated volcanic ash cloud is expected to impact multiple EUR States possibly reaching the eastern Mediterranean. To assist in preparing for the exercise, the VOLCEX19 Preparatory Workshop was held on 2nd and 3rd of October in Paris. The
final exercise directive is expected to be available by 29 October 2019.

3. **Action by the Meeting**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

   a. Note the information provided; and

   b. endorse and continue their active participation in volcanic ash exercises
Appendix A

VOLCEX19 Objectives

- Exercise the merged EUR/NAT Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan (EUR Doc 019, NAT Doc 006, Part II);
  - For individual States: test the effectiveness of their national procedures in accordance with the ICAO plan including that local operations (e.g. NOF, MWO, ANSP) procedures are updated (and in some cases developed) in line with national SRA policies;
  - For all participants: test the effectiveness of local (organizational) volcanic ash contingency plans and/or procedures; and
  - Exercise the origination, dissemination, reception and use of volcanic ash related aeronautical/meteorological information (including VAA/VAG, VA supplementary information, VA SIGMET and NOTAM and special air-reports on volcanic activity); ensure that NOTAM are in accordance with Annex 15 and the ICAO EUR/NAT Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan;

- Conduct workshop on exercise preparation with an emphasis on reviewing the new merged VACP and Exercise Directives (open to everyone – with an emphasis on ANSPs, MWOs, NOFs and National Regulators);

- Exercise and evaluate crisis coordination between the various stakeholders through EACCC (the European Aviation Crisis Coordination Cell) and the Aircraft Operator Crisis Coordination Cell (AOCCC);

- Test the ATM responsiveness to need of AO operational flexibility;

- Test transmission/dissemination of special air-reports on volcanic ash from aircraft via VHF, CPDLC and SATCOM (pre-coordination with operator needed);
  - According to ICAO scheme: AO --> ACC --> MWO --> ROC and VAAC (ICAO AFS: AFTN/AMHS/RODEX, SADIS);
  - Their upload and display on the NM NOP Portal/EVITA Tool; and
  - Test the display of special air reports by the US NWS using the information provided on the WIFS that should mirror the information provided on SADIS in this regard (verified by VAAC London) (tbc);

- Test cross-border SIGMET coordination;

- Test airport readiness in situation with high numbers of stranded passengers due to flight cancellations;

- Share airport volcanic ash surface status information via Airport Corner; and

- Test airport diversion capability information distribution.