Changes to SIGMET Sequence Number

8 November 2018

Introduction

Australian SIGMETs use a three character sequence number consisting of an alpha character followed by a two digit number (e.g. B06) where:

- The single alpha character 'A' is assigned to the SIGMET event and is used for any subsequent SIGMET issued for that event within the FIR;   and

- The two digit number 'nn' provides a sequential count of the number of SIGMETs issued for the event within the FIR.

Currently, in Australia there are 26 alpha characters available overall for Melbourne (YMMM) and Brisbane (YBBB) FIRs, and hence, a limit of 26 SIGMET events that can be current at any given time across both the YMMM and YBBB FIRs.

From **0000UTC on the 8th of November 2018**, the SIGMET sequence number will be changed to allow 26 unique alpha characters to be used per FIR.

Details of change

The SIGMET sequence number will be changed to allow 26 unique alpha characters to be used per FIR, allowing for up to 52 SIGMETs to be valid at the same time across both Australian FIRs (26 per FIR).

As a result, the same alpha character could be used simultaneously in each FIR but for two different SIGMET phenomena.

The example below shows one SIGMET, "C02", for severe turbulence in the Melbourne FIR current at the same time as another SIGMET, "C02", for squall line thunderstorms in the Brisbane FIR.

YMMM SIGMET **C02** VALID 200500/200900 YMHF-
YMMM MELBOURNE FIR **SEV TURB** FCST WI S4000 E14900 -
S4250 E14900 - MRL - OAT - YDPO - S4000 E14700
SFC/8000FT STNR WKN
RMK: ME=

YBBB SIGMET **C02** VALID 200440/200640 YSRF-
YBBB BRISBANE FIR **SQL TS** FCST WI S2910 E15000 - S2910
E15020 - S3100 E15140 - YNWD - S3140 E15140 - MUI - S2940
E14950 TOP ABV FL450 MOV E 35KT NC
RMK: BB=

✓ This change will require users to check both the SIGMET sequence number and FIR to ensure they have the correct SIGMET.