

Graphical SIGMET

Earlier this year, the CAA asked MetService to develop a graphical SIGMET for NZZC and NZZO Flight Information Regions.

A SIGMET (significant meteorological information) provides information about severe weather conditions (turbulence, icing, mountain waves, volcanic ash, tropical cyclone, etc). SIGMETs use latitude and longitude co-ordinates to describe the location of particular weather patterns.

While SIGMET wasn't necessarily designed for domestic operations – it is produced in an international standard codified format – it's clear the availability of supplementary graphical SIGMET (GSM) will make life easier for a number of pilots. GA and some commercial pilots, in particular, have had difficulty with the latitude/longitude co-ordinates in the standard text SIGMET.

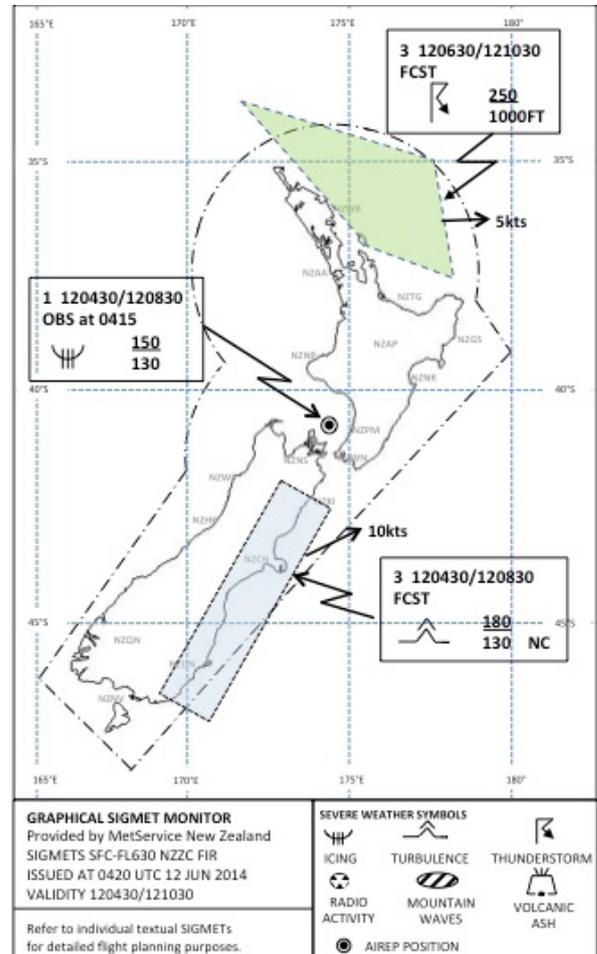
Implementation of the GSM is expected in early 2015. The GSM will be available through MetService web-based products, including MetFlight and MetJet.

What to Expect

The GSM will show the position of current SIGMETs with a single graphic and will update automatically as SIGMETs are issued and cancelled. Well established symbols will be used to show the nature and direction of weather patterns. MetService, using their new production and visualisation system, will be able to select areas of interest with greater precision.

Each SIGMET displayed on the GSM will also be accompanied by an issue and validity time. Latitude and longitude lines will be shown, as will Flight Information Region boundaries where appropriate.

Airways are devising a way in which Air Traffic Controllers can better pass SIGMET information to pilots in flight. ■



Indicative example of the developing Graphical SIGMET Monitor (GSM).

RPAS Proposed Rules Consultation

While there are Civil Aviation Rules in place for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), the growth in larger aircraft and demand for many commercial uses requires more tailor-made legislation. These aircraft are often called UAV, UAS, or drones.

Now is your chance to participate in the rule making process. As this issue of *Vector* goes to print, the CAA is consulting on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for RPAS.

The Parts affected will be Part 19 *Transition Rules*, Part 101 *Gyrogiders and Parasails*; and *Unmanned Balloons, Kites, Rockets, and Model Aircraft – Operating Rules*, as well as the creation of new Part 102 *Unmanned Aircraft Systems*.

The CAA has developed this proposal with the aviation community and welcomes submissions, before a final draft rule is submitted to the Minister for signing. The CAA publishes a summary of submissions so you can see what is happening throughout the process. To receive an email when any update about RPAS is published on the CAA web site, you can subscribe to its free email notification service.

See www.caa.govt.nz/rpas. ■