

12 January 2016

Dear Colleague,

USE OF AUTOMATED MET OBSERVATIONS AT SELECTED UK AIRPORTS

You may be aware that certain airports in the UK are currently taking part in a trial of Automated Met Observations, the details of this trial were published on 1/10/15 in Aeronautical Information Circular Y 069/2015 (For reference a copy of AIC Y 069/2015 is included in Annex A to this letter).

In summary, following a trial of automated observations at Cardiff and Glasgow airports during winter 2014/15, further trials were introduced for winter 2015/16 at Bristol, Edinburgh, Heathrow, Stansted and Luton airports, these will continue until 31/3/16.

Aerodromes participating in the trials have been granted permission to issue AUTO METARs and Automated Local Reports on an H24 basis subject to meeting certain conditions. One condition is to ensure that all automated reports are overseen by a certificated Met Observer, who is required to intervene in certain circumstances. This is to ensure that the weather reports being provided are representative of the conditions at the aerodrome.

At the end of the trial, user feedback will be requested as part of an industry consultation. This letter serves to initiate this feedback and provides an opportunity to respond to the CAA with any comments to date.

Specifically, industry is requested to comment on:

1. In general do you find the use of automated weather observations acceptable?
2. Have you noticed any significant differences between manual and automated observations?
3. Do you consider the reporting of automatic cloud amounts and height to be accurate?
4. Do you consider the reporting of visibility to be accurate?
5. Do you consider the reporting of present weather (rain, drizzle, snow etc.) to be accurate?
6. It is noted that there is an increased reporting of Cumulonimbus (CB) and Towering Cumulus (TCU). Does this impact your operation?
7. Does the local report information on ATIS information being provided meet your requirement now it is automated?
8. Are there any specific occasions when automated weather observing impacted your operations?

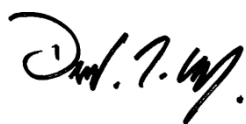
The CAA is keen to receive feedback from users about the trials and responses to Points 1-8 above, plus any other comments will be much appreciated.

Please send all replies to metauthority@caa.co.uk , or contact myself directly.

Many thanks,

Best regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gibbs'.

David Gibbs
Met Staff Officer

Annex A: Aeronautical Information Circular Y 069/2015