



GUIDANCE MATERIAL

GUIDANCE ON THE ISSUANCE OF SNOWTAM

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PREFACE

This Guidance Material (GM) is published by the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji for purposes of promulgating supplementary material to that published in the Authority's Standards Documents.

This GM provides guidance to aeronautical information service provider and regulatory staff on requirements that will be used for the issuance of SNOWTAM.

This GM explains certain regulatory requirements by providing interpretive and explanatory material.

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text 'CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF FIJI' around the perimeter and 'CHIEF EXECUTIVE' in the center. Below the signature and stamp, the name and title are printed.

.....
THERESA LEVESTAM
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The adoption of Amendment 39 to Annex 15 was issued on 1 April 2016 (State Letter Ref.: AN 2/2.4-16/18) with the effective date of 11 July 2016. The second part of the amendment (39B) is applicable as of 5 November 2021.
- 1.2. Amendment 39B introduced a new SNOWTAM format, based on the recommendations of the Friction Task Force of the Aerodrome Design and Operations Panel (ADOP) relating to the use of a global reporting format for assessing and reporting runway surface conditions. The SNOWTAM provisions/format was later moved to PANS-AIM (ICAO DOC 10066).

2. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

- 2.1 CAA FIJI (AGA/ANS Team) prepared this document to provide explanation and examples for issuing SNOWTAM in the new format (as of 5 November 2021).
- 2.2 List of issues identified by the AIM/SWIM Team (joint cooperation ICAO EUR/NAT Office, EUROCONTROL, EAD) including the details of the EAD policy/approach for addressing the issues is at Attachment A which can be used by the service provider as reference.
- 2.3 Submit any comments, observations or suggestions on this document to Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji info@caaf.org.fj

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF SNOWTAM

Definition of SNOWTAM: A special series NOTAM given in a standard format providing a surface condition report notifying the presence or cessation of hazardous conditions due to snow, ice, slush, frost, standing water or water associated with snow, slush, ice or frost on the movement area. (PANS-AIM)

- 3.1. Metric units shall be used in SNOWTAM and the unit of measurement (e.g. mm, cm, m, etc.) should not be reported.

*Example: **09/15/30** (item F): means that the depth of the contaminant in the first part of runway is 9mm, in the second part 15mm and in the third part 30mm. Units of measurement are metric but is not reported in the message.*

- 3.2. As of 5 November 2021, the maximum validity of SNOWTAM is 8 hours.

Note 1 – when no SNOWTAM is issued after 8 hours of a previous SNOWTAM for an aerodrome, the old SNOWTAM is expired and it is assumed that there is no more significant runway surface condition to be reported.

- 3.3. New SNOWTAM shall be issued whenever a new runway condition report (RCR) is received from the aerodrome operator.

Note 1 – prior arrangement between AIS (NOTAM Office) and the aerodrome operator is required to specify the means and process of submission of the Runway Condition Report (RCR)/initiation of SNOWTAM.



Note 2 – If there is a valid SNOWTAM in the old format (with 24 hours validity) issued on 4 November 2021, it is recommended to issue a new SNOWTAM with the new format, right after 0000 UTC to replace the old format SNOWTAM.

3.4. A SNOWTAM cancels the previous SNOWTAM. When a new SNOWTAM is issued for a specific aerodrome that has another valid SNOWTAM, the new one automatically replaces the older SNOWTAM (there is no need to reference the older SNOWTAM in the new SNOWTAM, as what we do for NOTAM).

3.5. With reference to the SNOWTAM template (see paragraph 4), the letters used to indicate items (A to T; third column of the SNOWTAM template) are only used for reference purpose and should not be included in the messages. The letters, M (mandatory), C (conditional) and O (optional) (second column of the SNOWTAM template) mark the usage and information.

Example: items B) to H) below without the letters indicating items (separated by one space):

01150915 12L 5/2/2 100/50/75 NR/06/06 WET/SLUSH/SLUSH

3.6. The abbreviated heading “TTAAiiii CCCC MMYYGgg (BBB)” is included to facilitate the automatic processing of SNOWTAM messages in computer data banks. The explanation of these symbols is:

TT = data designator for SNOWTAM = SW;

AA = geographical designator for States, e.g. LF = FRANCE, EG = United Kingdom (see Location Indicators (Doc 7910), Part 2, Index to Nationality Letters for Location Indicators);

iiii = SNOWTAM serial number in a four-digit group;

CCCC = four-letter location indicator of the aerodrome to which the SNOWTAM refers (see Location Indicators (Doc 7910));

MMYYGgg = date/time of observation/measurement, whereby:

MM = month, e.g. January = 01, December = 12

YY = day of the month

Gggg = time in hours (GG) and minutes (gg) UTC;

(BBB) = optional group for correction, in the case of an error, to a SNOWTAM message previously disseminated with the same serial number = COR.

Note 1. — Brackets in (BBB) are used to indicate that this group is optional.

Note 2.— See Attachment A, item 6, for more information on the EAD recommendation regarding geographical designator for States (AA).

Note 3. — When reporting on more than one runway and individual dates/times of observation/assessment are indicated by repeated Item B, the latest date/time of observation/assessment is inserted in the abbreviated heading (MMYYGgg).

Example: Abbreviated heading of SNOWTAM No. 149 from Zurich, measurement/observation of 7 November at 0620 UTC: **SWLS0149 LSZH 11070620**

Note 3. — The information groups are separated by a space, as illustrated above.



3.7. The text “SNOWTAM” in the SNOWTAM Format and the SNOWTAM serial number in a four-digit group shall be separated by a space, for example: **SNOWTAM 0124**.

Note 1.— The SNOWTAM serial number resets at the beginning of each calendar year (begins with SNOWTAM 0001 on January 1 at 0000 UTC).

3.8. **Repeating information in the aeroplane performance calculation section for more than one runway:** when a SNOWTAM is reporting on more than one runway of the aerodrome for which the SNOWTAM is issued, Items B to H (aeroplane performance calculation section) should be repeated.

Example:

**02170135 09R 5/2/2 100/75/75 NR/06/06 WET/SLUSH/SLUSH
02170225 09C 2/3/3 75/100/100 06/12/12 SLUSH/WET SNOW/WET SNOW 35 02170225 09L
3/3/3 50/50/75 08/15/10 WET SNOW/WET SNOW/WET SNOW 40**

3.9. **Repeating information in the situational awareness section:** When reported, the information in the situational awareness section could be repeated, as applicable, for each runway, taxiway and apron.

Note 1.— Option 1: it is recommended that the items of situational awareness section be kept in alphabetical order when repeated (item I) to S)). It means that item I) should be repeated for several runways (if applicable) and then item J), then item K), etc. and item T) ends the SNOWTAM message. Example:

DRIFTING SNOW. RWY 09L LOOSE SAND. RWY 09R LOOSE SAND. RWY 09L CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09R CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09C CHEMICALLY TREATED.)

Note 2.— Option 2: repeat all relevant items of the same runway (item I) to M)) for each runway, then to continue with the rest of the items (item N) to T)). Example:

DRIFTING SNOW. RWY 09L LOOSE SAND. RWY 09L CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09R LOOSE SAND. RWY 09R CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09C CHEMICALLY TREATED. TWY A AND TWY C CLSD.)

Note 3— since there is no specific guideline/rule for repeating items in the situational awareness section, NOTAM systems should be flexible to receive and process situational awareness information in any order.

Note 4. — items in the situational awareness section are separated by a full stop and a space (item L. item M. item N. etc.).

3.10. For readability purposes of the SNOWTAM message, include a line feed after the SNOWTAM serial number, after Item A, and after the aeroplane performance calculation section.



SNOWTAM	(Serial number)			<≡
Aeroplane performance calculation section				
(AERODROME LOCATION INDICATOR)	M	A)		<≡
(DATE/TIME OF ASSESSMENT <i>(Time of completion of assessment in UTC)</i>)	M	B)	→	
(LOWER RUNWAY DESIGNATION NUMBER)	M	C)	→	
(RUNWAY CONDITION CODE (RWYCC) ON EACH RUNWAY THIRD) <i>(From Runway Condition Assessment Matrix (RCAM) 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6)</i>	M	D)	/ /	
(PER CENT COVERAGE CONTAMINANT FOR EACH RUNWAY THIRD)	C	E)	/ / →	
(DEPTH (mm) OF LOOSE CONTAMINANT FOR EACH RUNWAY THIRD)	C	F)	/ / →	
(CONDITION DESCRIPTION OVER TOTAL RUNWAY LENGTH) * <i>(Observed on each runway third, starting from threshold having the lower runway designation number)</i> COMPACTED SNOW DRY DRY SNOW DRY SNOW ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW DRY SNOW ON TOP OF ICE FROST ICE SLUSH STANDING WATER WATER ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW WET WET ICE WET SNOW WET SNOW ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW WET SNOW ON TOP OF ICE	M	G)	/ / →	→
(WIDTH OF RUNWAY TO WHICH THE RUNWAY CONDITION CODES APPLY, IF LESS THAN PUBLISHED WIDTH)	O	H)		<≡
Situational awareness section				
(REDUCED RUNWAY LENGTH, IF LESS THAN PUBLISHED LENGTH (m))	O	I)	→	
(DRIFTING SNOW ON THE RUNWAY)	O	J)	→	
(LOOSE SAND ON THE RUNWAY)	O	K)	→	
(CHEMICAL TREATMENT ON THE RUNWAY)	O	L)	→	
(SNOWBANKS ON THE RUNWAY) <i>(If present, distance from runway centre line (m) followed by "L", "R" or "LR" as applicable)</i>	O	M)	→	
(SNOWBANKS ON A TAXIWAY)	O	N)	→	
(SNOWBANKS ADJACENT TO THE RUNWAY)	O	O)	→	
(TAXIWAY CONDITIONS)	O	P)	→	
(APRON CONDITIONS)	O	R)	→	
(MEASURED FRICTION COEFFICIENT)	O	S)	→	
(PLAIN-LANGUAGE REMARKS)	O	T))
NOTES: 1. *Enter ICAO nationality letters as given in ICAO Doc 7910, Part 2 or otherwise applicable aerodrome identifier. 2. Information on other runways, repeat from B to H. 3. Information in the situational awareness section repeated for each runway, taxiway and apron. Repeat as applicable when reported. 4. Words in brackets () not to be transmitted. 5. For letters A) to T) refer to the <i>Instructions for the completion of the SNOWTAM Format</i> , paragraph 1, item b).				

SIGNATURE OF ORIGINATOR *(not for transmission)*

* *The terms SLIPPERY WET and SPECIALLY PREPARED WINTER RUNWAY in item G are used by States that follow EASA Regulations. See details below in note.1 of Section 1, Item D.*



SECTION 1: AEROPLANE PERFORMANCE CALCULATION SECTION

Item A — Aerodrome location indicator (four-letter location indicator) of the aerodrome, for which the SNOWTAM is issued. The aerodrome location indicators are listed in the ICAO DOC 7910 (Location Indicators).

Example: LFPG = Paris/Charles du Gaulle

Item B — Date and Time of assessment of the runway surface condition (eight-figure date/time group giving time of observation as month, day, hour and minute in UTC)

Example: 12040638

12 = December; 04 = Day 4 (4th); 0638 (06 hours and 38minutes)

Item C — Lower runway designator number (nn[L] or nn[C] or nn[R])

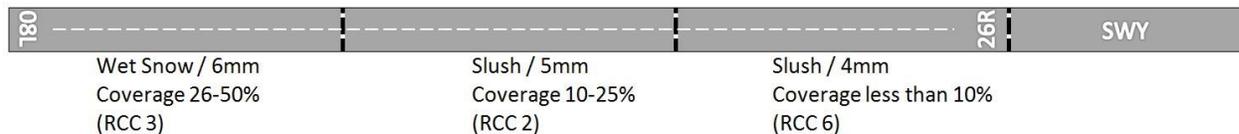
Note.1 — Only one runway designator is inserted for each runway and always the lower number.

Example: 08L for RWY08L/26R, 08L should be reported (08<26)



Item D — Runway condition code for each runway third. Only one digit (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) is inserted for each runway third, separated by an oblique stroke (n/n/n). Runway Condition Code is determined during the assessment of the runway surface condition, in accordance with the provisions of the PANS Aerodrome and the Runway Condition Assessment Matrix (RCAM).

Example: 3/2/6: runway condition code for the first part of runway 08L is 3, for the second part 2 and for the third parts is 6.



Runway condition assessment matrix (RCAM)			
Assessment		Downgrade assessment criteria	
Runway condition code	criteria Runway surface description	Aeroplane deceleration or directional control observation	Pilot report of runway braking action
6	☐ DRY	---	---
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FROST • WET (The runway surface is covered by any visible dampness or water up to and including 3 mm depth) <i>Up to and including 3 mm depth:</i> • SLUSH • DRY SNOW • WET SNOW 	Braking deceleration is normal for the wheel braking effort applied AND directional control is normal.	GOOD
4	<p><i>-15°C and Lower outside air temperature:</i></p> ☐ COMPACTED SNOW	Braking deceleration OR directional control is between Good and Medium.	GOOD TO MEDIUM
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WET (“slippery wet” runway) • DRY SNOW or WET SNOW (any depth) ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW <i>More than 3 mm depth:</i> • DRY SNOW • WET SNOW <p><i>Higher than -15°C outside air temperature:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMPACTED SNOW 	Braking deceleration is noticeably reduced for the wheel braking effort applied OR directional control is noticeably reduced.	MEDIUM
2	<p><i>More than 3 mm depth of water or slush:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STANDING WATER • SLUSH 	Braking deceleration OR directional control is between Medium and Poor.	MEDIUM TO POOR
1	☐ ICE	Braking deceleration is significantly reduced for the wheel braking effort applied OR directional control is significantly reduced.	POOR
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WET ICE • WATER ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW • DRY SNOW or WET SNOW ON TOP OF ICE 	Braking deceleration is minimal to non-existent for the wheel braking effort applied OR directional control is uncertain.	LESS THAN POOR

Item E — Per cent coverage is reported as NR (less than 10% or DRY), 25 (10-25 %), 50 (26-50 %), 75 (51-75 %) or 100 (76-100 %) for each runway third, separated by an oblique stroke ([n]nn/[n]nn/[n]nn).

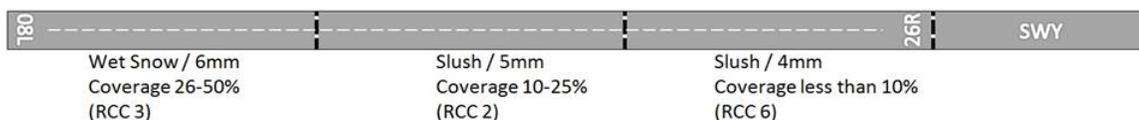
Note 1.— This information is provided only when the runway condition for each runway third (Item D) has been reported as other than 6 and there is a condition description for each runway third (Item G) that has been reported other than DRY.

Note 2. — When the conditions are not reported, this will be signified by the insertion of “NR” for the appropriate runway third(s).

Note 3. — When the runway condition is “DRY” or the coverage is less than 10%, item E shall be reported by inserting “NR”.

Note 4. – When no information is to be reported, insert “NR” at its relevant position in the message to indicate to the user that no information exists (/NR/).

Example: **50/25/NR**: percentage of coverage at the first runway third of RWY 08L is 50 % (between 26 to 50%), at the second part of the runway is 25 % (between 10 to 25 %) and the coverage is less than 10 % at the third part of the runway.



Item G — Condition description for each runway third. Insert any of the following condition descriptions for each runway third, separated by an oblique stroke:

- COMPACTED SNOW
- DRY SNOW
- DRY SNOW ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW
- DRY SNOW ON TOP OF ICE
- FROST
- ICE
- SLUSH
- STANDING WATER
- WATER ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW
- WET
- WET ICE
- WET SNOW
- WET SNOW ON TOP OF COMPACTED SNOW
- WET SNOW ON TOP OF ICE
- DRY (only reported when there is no contaminant)

Note 1. — When the conditions are not reported, this will be signified by the insertion of “NR” for the appropriate runway third(s).

Example: WET SNOW/SLUSH/SLUSH: condition description is “Wet snow” for the first part of runway, “Slush” for the second and third parts of runway.

180	26R	SWY
Wet Snow / 6mm Coverage 26-50% (RCC 3)	Slush / 5mm Coverage 10-25% (RCC 2)	Slush / 4mm Coverage less than 10% (RCC 6)

Item H — Width of runway to which the runway condition codes apply. Insert the width in meters (without units of measurement), if it is less than the published runway width.

Example: 35: published width of RWY 08L/26R is 45m and the RCR applies to 35m of it.

SECTION 2: SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SECTION

Note 1. — Elements in the situational awareness section end with a full stop.

Note 2. — Elements in the situational awareness section for which no information exists, or where the conditional circumstances for publication are not fulfilled, are left out completely.

Note 3. — The situational awareness section shall be separated from the aeroplane performance calculation section by an empty line.

Item I — Reduced runway length. Insert the applicable runway designator and available length in meters (example: RWY nn [L] or nn [C] or nn [R] REDUCED TO [n]nnn).

Note 1. — This information is conditional when a NOTAM has been published with a new set of declared distances, i.e. when the runway length is reduced, this item should be included in the SNOWTAM and a NOTAM should also be issued with the new available declared distances (TORA, TODA, ASDA and LDA).

Example: RWY 08L REDUCED TO 2800.

Item J — Drifting snow on the runway. When reported, insert “DRIFTING SNOW”.

Example: DRIFTING SNOW.

Note 1. — Drifting snow is an ensemble of snow particles raised by the wind to small heights above the ground (WMO definition).

Note 2. — Drifting snow in the SNOWTAM format refers to the airport (the whole movement area), not a specific runway. However, for large airports with several runways where drifting snow could exist in one or some runways (not all), item J) might be reported with relevant runway designator, e.g. RWY 08 DRIFTING SNOW



Item K — Loose sand on the runway. When reported on the runway, insert the lower runway designator and with a space “LOOSE SAND” (RWY nn or RWY nn[L] or nn[C] or nn[R] LOOSE SAND).

Example: **RWY 08L LOOSE SAND.**

Item L — Chemical treatment on the runway. When chemical treatment has been reported applied, insert the lower runway designator and with a space “CHEMICALLY TREATED” (RWY nn or RWY nn[L] or nn[C] or nn[R] CHEMICALLY TREATED).

Example: **RWY 08L CHEMICALLY TREATED.**

Item M — Snow banks on the runway. When snow banks are present on the runway, insert the lower runway designator and with a space “SNOW BANK” and with a space left “L” or right “R” or both sides “LR”, followed by the distance in meters from centre line separated by a space FM CL (RWY nn or RWY nn[L] or nn[C] or nn[R] SNOW BANK Lnn or Rnn or LRnn FM CL).

Example: **RWY 08L SNOW BANK L12 FM CL.**

Item N — Snow banks on a taxiway. When snow banks are present on a taxiway, insert the taxiway designator and with a space “SNOW BANK” (TWY [nn]n SNOW BANK).

Example: **TWY B SNOW BANK.**

Note 1. — when there are snow banks on every taxiway, “ALL TWYS SNOWBANKS” might be used.

Item O — Snow banks adjacent to the runway. When snow banks are present penetrating the height profile in the aerodrome snow plan, insert the lower runway designator and “ADJ SNOW BANKS” (RWY nn or RWY nn[L] or nn[C] or nn[R] ADJ SNOW BANKS).

Example: **RWY 08R ADJ SNOW BANKS.**

Item P — Taxiway conditions. When taxiway conditions are reported as poor, insert the taxiway designator followed by a space “POOR” (TWY [n or nn] POOR or ALL TWYS POOR).

Example: **TWY C POOR.**

Item R — Apron conditions. When apron conditions are reported as poor, insert the apron designator followed by a space “POOR” (APRON [nnnn] POOR or ALL APRONS POOR).

Note 1. — Aprons are named differently in different aerodromes (e.g. Apron 1, Cargo Apron, Apron Main, Apron XXX, Military Ramp, etc.). The Apron designator/name in the SNOWTAM should be the one indicated in the Aerodrome Chart and/or AIP.

Example: **APRON 1 POOR.**



Item S — Measured friction coefficient. Where reported, insert the measured friction coefficient and friction measuring device.

Note 1. — *This item is optional and will only be reported for States that have an established programme of runway friction measurement using a State-approved friction measuring device.*

Note 2. — *States that follow EASA Regulations do not report measured friction coefficient. 'NR' is inserted for Item S.*

Item T — plain language remarks.

5. EXAMPLES OF SNOWTAM

Example 1:

GG EADBZQZX EADNZQZX EADSZQZX
170140 EADDYNYX
SWEA0150 EADD 02170135
(SNOWTAM 0150
EADD
02170055 09L 5/5/4 100/100/100 NR/03/03 WET/WET SNOW/COMPACTED SNOW
02170135 09R 5/2/2 75/50/75 NR/06/06 WET/SLUSH/SLUSH 40)

Example 2:

GG EADBZQZX EADNZQZX EADSZQZX
170229 EADDYNYX
SWEA0151 EADD 02170225
(SNOWTAM 0151
EADD
02170055 09L 5/5/5 100/100/100 NR/NR/03 WET/WET/WET SNOW
02170135 09R 5/2/2 100/50/75 NR/06/06 WET/SLUSH/SLUSH
02170225 09C 2/3/3 75/100/100 06/12/12 SLUSH/WET SNOW/WET SNOW

RWY 09L SNOW BANK R20 FM CL. RWY 09R ADJ SNOW BANKS. TWY B POOR. APRON
NORTH POOR.)

Example 3:

GG EADBZQZX EADNZQZX EADSZQZX
170350 EADDYNYX
SWEA0152 EADD 02170345
(SNOWTAM 0152
EADD
02170345 09L 5/5/5 100/100/100 NR/NR/03 WET/WET/SLUSH

02170134 09R 5/2/2 100/50/75 NR/06/06 WET/SLUSH/SLUSH



02170225 09C 2/3/3 75/100/100 06/12/12 SLUSH/WET SNOW/WET SNOW 35

DRIFTING SNOW. RWY 09L LOOSE SAND. RWY 09R CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09C CHEMICALLY TREATED.)

Example 4:

GG EADBZQZX EADNZQZX EADSZQZX

170440 EADDYNYX

SWEA0153 EADD 02170435

(SNOWTAM 0153

EADD

02170435 09L 5/5/5 100/100/100 NR/NR/03 WET/WET/SLUSH

02170415 09R 5/2/2 100/50/75 NR/06/06 WET/SLUSH/SLUSH

02170400 09C 2/2/2 75/75/50 06/12/12 SLUSH/SLUSH/SLUSH 40

DRIFTING SNOW. RWY 09L LOOSE SAND. RWY 09L CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09R CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09C CHEMICALLY TREATED. TWY A AND TWY B CLSD.)

Example 5:

GG EADBZQZX EADNZQZX EADSZQZX

170540 EADDYNYX

SWEA0154 EADD 02170535

(SNOWTAM 0154

EADD

02170535 09L 6/6/6 NR/NR/NR NR/NR/NR DRY/DRY/DRY

02170515 09R 5/2/2 100/50/75 NR/06/06 WET/SLUSH/SLUSH

02170500 09C 2/2/2 75/75/50 06/12/12 SLUSH/SLUSH/SLUSH 40

DRIFTING SNOW. RWY 09R CHEMICALLY TREATED. RWY 09C CHEMICALLY TREATED. TWY A AND TWY B CLSD.)

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. Appropriate means of communication between the airport authorities/operators (the originators of the runway condition reports through RCR) and the AIS/NOFs (responsible to disseminate information through SNOWTAM according to the information received by RCR) must be ensured.
- 6.2. When RCR is provided by airports to NOF, the NOF should carry out an initial quality check to verify the following:
 - All mandatory information items (items A, B, C, D and G, as appropriate) are provided
 - Items E, F and G are not empty (values to be provided) or the position of this type of information in the information string would be identified by NR
 - The syntax requirement of SNOWTAM in PANS-AIM is strictly adhered



- Information provided is in accordance with the criteria explained above (in terms of units of measurement, format of data, etc.)
- Information conforms to other sources (date/time with /UTC; runways, taxiways and aprons designators, width and length as per the published ones in AIP, etc.)

Note 1. – in case NOF needs clarification on the information received through RCR, necessary coordination should be made with the relevant airport authority/operator.

Note 2. – accuracy of RCR data is the responsibility of airport authority, as NOFs are normally unable to verify if the data collected is correct against the actual runway condition.

Note 3. – NOFs should carry out quality checks at different stages, including before issuance of the SNOWTAM to ensure that the SNOWTAM reflects the same information as was originally received from the airport authority through RCR.

6.3 NOF/AIS personnel should be sufficiently trained with the new SNOWTAM format.

6.4 The software/templates used to issue/receive SNOWTAM (NOTAM/SNOWTAM system) should be updated, as applicable, to enable issuing, receiving, storing and retrieval of SNOWTAM in the new format.

REFERENCES:

- *Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) — Aeronautical Information Management (PANS-AIM, Doc 10066)*
- *Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) — Aerodromes (PANS-Aerodromes, Doc 9981)*
- *Annex 14 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Volume 1 – Aerodrome Design and Operations*
- *Assessment, Measurement and Reporting of Runway Surface Conditions (ICAO Circular 355)*



Attachment A:
Frequently asked questions/issues related to the SNOWTAM format and EAD policy/approach
(Items highlighted in orange are AIS-related issues which need immediate attention)

	Question/Issue	Comment/Initial analysis	Remarks (Impact, if the issue is not resolved)	EAD implementations policy/approach
1	Old SNOWTAM format (availability after 5 NOV 2020) - Will States issue the SNOWTAM under the new format?	Linked to item 2 below	Possible rejection by regional and national AIS databases and users if some States continue to issue the SNOWTAM in the old format after 5 November 2020	<p>For EAD-migrated clients (B2B and B2C), ONLY the new format will be available. For non-migrated clients (WW SNOWTAM received via AFTN), EAD will also accept the OLD format, which will be automatically converted to the new format in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SNOWTAM header, including number - Item A) – Aerodrome Location Indicator - Item B) – Date/Time of assessment (without repetition) - Item C) – RWY designation number (without repetition) - Copy of the original SNOWTAM text, from Item B) to Item T) – Plain language remark - No validation <p>Example of old format processing:</p> <p>Original SNOWTAM in OLD Format</p> <p>SWED0012 EDDK 11042330 (SNOWTAM 0012 A) EDDK B) 11042330 C) 14L F) 2/2/2 G) 30/30/40 H) 5/5/5 B) 11042325 C) 14R F) 5/5/5 G) 30/30/40 H) 3/3/3 B) 11042320 C) 07 F) 5/5/5 G) 40/30/30 H) 2/3/2 R) 2 S) 12300800 T) RWY CONTAMINATION 100 PERCENT. SNOW REMOVAL IN PROGRESS)</p> <p>SNOWTAM auto stored in EAD</p>



				<p>SWED0012 EDDK 11050145 (SNOWTAM 0012 EDDK 11050145 14L THIS SNOWTAM WAS PUBLISHED BY ORIGINATOR IN OLD FORMAT. SNOWTAM STORED IN EAD DATABASE WITHOUT ANY VALIDATION CHECKS. TEXT PROVIDED FOR SAFETY REASON ONLY. QUOTE B) 11042330 C) 14L F) 2/2/2 G) 30/30/40 H) 5/5/5 B) 11042325 C) 14R F) 5/5/5 G) 30/30/40 H) 3/3/3 B) 11042320 C) 07 F) 5/5/5 G) 40/30/30 H) 2/3/2 R) 2 S) 12300800</p> <p>T) RWY CONTAMINATION 100 PERCENT. SNOW REMOVAL IN PROGRESS) UNQUOTE</p>
2	Worldwide implementation status monitoring and reporting	How will States' plans and eventually their status of implementation be monitored? (linked to item 1 above) It is proposed to establish an online dashboard to monitor States' plans and their implementation status.	This may lead to the circumstances detailed in item 1 above. It may lead to non-harmonized implementation by various States.	
3	Transition concept => At 00.00 UTC, 5 NOV 2020 - What happens to the validity of SNOWTAM messages issued on 4 NOV? - From 5 NOV – 8H (instead of 24H) - What shall be the Validity for	From 5 November 2020 at 0000 UTC, all SNOWTAMs will be valid for 8 hours. States should issue an old-format SNOWTAM at the end of 4.11.20 (2359 UTC) to cancel the old-format SNOWTAM and then issue a new	If this is not done, there will be both old- and new-format SNOWTAMS on 5 November, which could lead to some of the old SNOWTAMS being missed (because the systems will execute the new rules after 0000 UTC). The issue is addressed in the "Guidance for the issuance of SNOWTAM", para. 3.3 note	After 5 th NOV, the validity of SNOWTAM in EAD will be 8H regardless of the format. With that in mind SNOWTAMs will be automatically invalidated (will not appear in the PIB) after 8 hours based on observation time indicated in an Abbreviated Heading EAD Transition concept EAD will start to automatically convert stored valid



	<p>SNOWTAM that are received in the OLD Format after 5th NOV 2020?</p>	<p>SNOWTAM in the new format instead immediately after 0000 UTC This should be clarified by ICAO and be included in guidance material.</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>OLD SNOWTAMs from one day prior to the activation dates. The automatic conversion will follow the same process as described under P.1 above. These automatically converted SNOWTAMs will be stored in the database but not used for production (they will not appear on the Saved SNOWTAM list nor in the PIB) until the activation of the NEW format. As soon as the NEW format is activated, the system will use the previously auto-converted SNOWTAMs for production use (i.e. they will show in the Saved SNOWTAM list and be used in the PIB). As the CONVERTED SNOWTAMs (like the NEW ones) are valid for 8 hours, OLD SNOWTAMs created more than 8 hours before the activation date (00.00 UTC, 5 NOV 2019) will no longer be valid on the activation date (regardless of their initial 24-hour validity at the time of their creation). SNOWTAMs created after 5 NOV 2019 will automatically replace and invalidate SNOWTAMs existing for the same Aerodrome regardless of the message format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW SNOWTAM stored after 5.11.20 will also replace OLD/CONVERTED/NEW- format SNOWTAMs for the same Aerodrome • OLD SNOWTAMs processed as CONVERTED after 5.11. 20 will also replace OLD/CONVERTED/NEW-format SNOWTAMs for the same Aerodrome.
<p>4</p>	<p>Repeating of the items in the Situational Awareness section (limitation of the ICAO specifications) No clear guidance on the repeating of the items in the Situational Awareness section except for this note:</p>	<p>Option 1. Repeat whole group of Item I) to Item S) for each runway separately. - Only some of items in the situational awareness section are related to runways, others are not (e.g. Items N, P, R). Option 2. Repeat each item (Item I) for different runways, then</p>	<p>If not clarified, there would be different ways of ordering the items in the situational awareness section, which may lead to confusion and difficulty of understanding among users. The issue is addressed in the “Guidance for the issuance of SNOWTAM”, para. 3.9.</p>	<p>(e.g. items for 09L, 09C, 09R). Note: Item I) (Reduced Runway Length) may also contain the other runway direction (not the lower number). Item I), however, will still be in the same group as the other items related to this runway (even though they are using the lower number). 2. Drifting Snow Note that the DRIFTING SNOW (Item J)) information is provided only once as it is not runway-specific. This, however, depends on the EAD system parameter</p>



	- Room for various interpretations on how to repeat items	<p>next item for different runways, up to item S)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Items I) to S) occur one after the other (in the given order) but each item can be repeated for different runway designators. <p>Option 3. Items appear in no particular order (except for Item T, being the last).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Option 3 is the most flexible and preferable approach as it would also accept examples from options 1 and 2. 		<p>{SNOWTAM_2020_DRIFTING_PER_RWY}. If the parameter value is changed from the default “N” to “Y”, then Item J) is also generated inside each runway group with a similar text structure as the other items: RWY nn [L] or nn [C] or nn [R] DRIFTING SNOW</p> <p>3. Taxiway groups If items N) and P) are provided for a taxiway, they will be reported in that order. For unrelated N) and P) items, the N) items will be reported first, followed by the P) items. This is also valid for cases where Item P) contains ALL TWYS POOR. The sorting will also follow the taxiway designators, whereas ALL TWYS POOR will be the last item.</p> <p>4. Aprons groups 5. Item S) 6. Item T)</p>
5	Item J) says to simply insert “DRIFTING SNOW “(when reported) without the RWY designator. Nevertheless, Item K) says to insert the lower RWY designator and with a space “LOOSE SAND” (if LOOSE SAND is reported on the RWY). What is the logic behind the two different cases, one with the RWY designator and the other without? <i>Ref.: PANS-AIM 10066, Appendix 4 SNOWTAM Format applicable on 5 November 2020, Instructions for Item J) and Item K)</i>	Is RWY Designator needed for Drifting Snow (as for the loose sand)? (This item has a link with item 6 above.)	<p>Drifting snow is an ensemble of snow particles raised by the wind to small heights above the ground (WMO definition).</p> <p>Drifting snow refers to the airport (whole movement area) not to a specific runway. The issue is addressed in the “Guidance for the issuance of SNOWTAM”, para. 4 section 2 item J.</p>	<p>EAD will implement the EAD system parameter {SNOWTAM_2020_DRIFTING_PER_RWY}. By default, this parameter will be set to “N”. In this case, DRIFTING SNOW (Item J)) information is provided only once as it is not runway-specific. If ICAO decides that the RWY ID must be presented, the EAD parameter will be changed from the default “N” to “Y” and then Item J) will also, be generated inside each runway group with a similar text structure as the other items: RWY nn [L] or nn [C] or nn [R] DRIFTING SNOW</p>
6	The abbreviated heading – geographical designator for States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “X” could be used as a second letter for Canada (CX) and Australia (YX). - For the USA -> KX cannot be applied as they use 	<p>Possible rejection of SNOWTAMs</p> <p>The concerned Regions/States to look into this subject (Australia, Canada and United States).</p>	EAD recommends use of “X” as the second letter for Canada (CX) and Australia (YX). However, for the USA -> KX cannot be applied, as they use different NOFs.



	<p>SWAA: geographical designator for States, e.g. LF = FRANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three States (Australia, Canada and USA) have ONLY ONE nationality letter: C (Canada), Y (Australia), K (US) - What second letter shall be used for Canada, Australia and the US? 	<p>different NOFs for the time being. Clarification needed by ICAO</p>		
7	<p>Apron/TWY designators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What characters are allowable? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Alphanumeric characters ii. Symbols (hyphen, underscore, space, etc.) - Is there any length limitation (similar to AIXM)? 	<p>Examples from some AIPs: Apron: APRON, APRON 2, APRON II, SAULT COLLEGE APRON, 1, II, IV, APRON II (MNR), CANADIAN WARPLANE HERRITAGE MUSEUM APRON, 51B, DE-ICING, APRON MAINTENANCE_WEST, APRON (POS. 26-28) Taxiway: TWY, TWY A, TWYA, TWY1, TWY 1, A2, A, B-1, WEST, BA, K4 CATIII-RWY, NNORTH, D THR24-RWY14L, B NORTH 10/28, 08/26, W II, TWY C10/STAND102, TWY-1</p>	<p>Possible rejection of SNOWTAMs</p> <p>The issue is addressed in the “Guidance for the issuance of SNOWTAM”, para. 4 section 2 item R.</p> <p>Recommendation: these items should be flexible and accept both alphanumeric characters and symbols.</p>	<p>EAD will accept only AIS-compatible characters. This means that Apron/TWY designators will be the same as those stored in the EAD SDO {National AIP}.</p>
8	<p>There seems to be a discrepancy between the ‘general descriptions’, where the ‘CONDITION DESCRIPTION FOR EACH RUNWAY THIRD (Item G)’ is mandatory only when RWYCC is 1-5, and the ‘field descriptions’ where ‘CONDITION DESCRIPTION FOR EACH RUNWAY THIRD (Item G)’ is always</p>	<p>PANS AIM (there is a discrepancy in PANS AIM): - The SNOWTAM form indicates that Item G is mandatory and not conditional.</p>	<p>Confusion for AISs/NOFs</p> <p>Recommendation: Item G is mandatory only when RWYCC is 1 to 5. This is the minimum required by PANS-AIM; however, States/Regions might decide to report item G in all circumstances (RCC 0 to 6).</p>	<p>In EAD, Item G is Mandatory regardless RWYCC values.</p>



		<p>mandatory without any condition</p>  <p>Clarification needed by ICAO (Should it be mandatory – with no condition – everywhere in PANS AIM as well?)</p>		
9	Need for an AIC template (sample) for AISPs in order to use it for announcement of their plans and details on the implementation of GRF and the new SNOWTAM format	<p>The AIC will be a good tool for States to put their national plan together and carry out the necessary coordination among their national stakeholders. It will provide good evidence for ICAO to monitor the situation with the various States. It will also be useful for users. Some States have started developing an AIC templates. It is possible to work with those States to make a general template to be used by all States.</p>	<p>Lack of awareness of stakeholders of the implementation Some States already have their own AICs which could be distributed to all States. Sample AIC template is provided as appendix B of the “Guidance for the issuance of SNOWTAM”.</p>	
10	Need for guidance material (as part of Doc 8126 or any type of GM) describing the implementation guidelines and explaining the SNOWTAM format and elements in more detail	<p>As a first step (quick action), a brief document could be developed (by a group of volunteers) to include the following: - the missing codes of the SNOWTAM format and the</p>	<p>Confusion and lack of sufficient knowledge and information for NOFs may lead to non- implementation or difficulties for AISPs.</p> <p>Development of “Guidance for the issuance of SNOWTAM” would form the basis for future</p>	



		<p>clarifications needed as explained in the items above; - details on each element of the SNOWTAM format; - some implementation guidelines.</p> <p>This document should be published by ICAO as a matter of priority through a mechanism which does not involve a long process (this should be issued as soon as possible but not later than December 2019).</p> <p>The second step would be for ICAO to later include the provisions of this document in the PANS AIM and Doc 8126, as appropriate.</p>	<p>inclusion in DOC 8126</p>	
11	<p>There is a need for training material and a course specifically for AIS staff.</p>	<p>ACI has developed a course for airport operators.</p> <p>IATA is developing course for airline operators.</p> <p>No specific course exists for AIS. A half-day CBT course is proposed for development by ICAO (to be available as soon as possible) (or classroom course – tbd).</p> <p>The volunteer group (mentioned in item 10) could put the training materials together using the current PANS AIM and PANS Aerodrome provisions as well as the guidance material which they develop (referred to in the previous item).</p>	<p>Lack of sufficient knowledge among AIS staff and difficulty with implementation (as raised by many States’ AISPs)</p> <p>Development of “Guidance for the issuance of SNOWTAM” would help.</p>	<p>Web-based training prepared by EUROCONTROL concerning general information related to the changes with a new SNOWTAM form might be provided.</p>
12	<p>The Validity of SNOWTAMs after 5 November 2020 is</p>	<p>This item should be 24 hours.</p> <p>This must be a typographical</p>		



	<p>8 hours and before that it was 24 hours. After the publication of the PANS AIM, the validity of both SNOWTAM formats (the one up to 5 NOV and the one after 5 NOV) are both written as 8 hours (probably because of a printing error). <i>Ref.: PANS-AIM Doc 10066, Appendix 4 SNOWTAM Format (applicable until 4 November 2020), page App. 4-2, 1. General-item d)</i></p>	<p>error.</p>		
13	<p>Conditional Fields, Items E), F): What has to be inserted for the other two thirds if the condition applies only to one third of the RWY (and the other two thirds are dry and clean)? Example: C) Runway 09 D) RWYCC 6/6/5, G) DRY/DRY/STANDING WATER: Question for E) und F): E) ?/?/100, F) ?/?/04 <i>Ref.: PANS-AIM Doc 10066, Appendix 4 SNOWTAM Format applicable on 5 November 2020, Instructions 2. Item E) Note 1 and 2; Item F) Note 1 and 2</i></p>	<p>According to PANS AD, Item E is not reported for one runway third if it is dry or less than 10% covered. Examples: 25/50/100 NR/50/100 if contaminant coverage is less than 10% in the first third, 25/NR/100 if contaminant coverage is less than 10% in the middle third, 25/50/NR if contaminant coverage is less than 10% in the last third.</p>	<p>The problem has been resolved (closed).</p>	
14	<p>Item F) (Depth of loose contaminant): The field condition is not clear in case of a depth below the minimum values for the contamination of slush, wet snow and dry snow. Which values have to be inserted in those cases in item F) and G). <i>Ref.: PANS-Aerodromes II-I-13 Table II-I-2, Notes 1-3</i></p>	<p>According to PANS AD, the value could be below the minimum in the case of significant changes. Here are examples from 9981: 04/06/12 [STANDING WATER] 02/04/09 [SLUSH] 02/05/10 [WET SNOW or WET SNOW ON TOP OF ...] 02/20/100 [DRY SNOW or DRY SNOW ON TOP</p>	<p>The problem has been resolved (closed).</p>	



<p>15</p>	<p>Validity 8 hours: It is not clear whether a series of SNOWTAMs should end with a final SNOWTAM reporting “DRY – RWYCC 6”, or if no SNOWTAM is issued after 8 hours, does it mean that there is no longer any contamination. What is the valid status of the contamination if no SNOWTAM is issued after 8 hours? <i>Ref.: PANS-Aerodromes Doc 9981, Part II, Chapter 1 applicable on 5 November 2020, 1.1.3.2</i></p>	<p>OF] Either the reported runway surface condition ends as a result of the issuing of a SNOWTAM reporting RWYCC 6, or the SNOWTAM expires after 8 hours. If no SNOWTAM is issued after 8 hours, the previous SNOWTAM is considered to have “expired” and it should be understood that there is no longer any contaminant on the runway.</p>	<p>The problem has been resolved (closed).</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>The new ICAO SNOWTAM FORMAT cannot be used for manual entries in the form (owing to lack of space). How should a manual entry be made in practice, e.g. in field G), or if several entries have to be mad in the Situational Awareness Section? <i>Ref.: PANS-AIM Doc 10066, Appendix 4 SNOWTAM Format applicable on 5 November 2020</i></p>	<p>Airport operators should develop their own form (Runway Condition Report – RCR) to collect runway surface condition data (based on the GRF provisions). When the RCR is filled in, it should be sent to the NOF. The RCR form should be in line with the SNOWTAM format (so as to be easily understandable for NOF personnel and able to be copied into SNOWTAM format by the NOF) On the NOF side, the NOTAM/SNOWTAM system should be updated in line with the new format, in order to accept the new entries. ICAO may provide a sample RCR form for airport operators</p>	<p>This is related to airport operator (not AIS/AIM).</p>	



17	<p>The Acronym “SNOWTAM” is obviously not applicable to those conditions which are related only to water/standing water or loose sand – especially in regions which never have snow and have therefore never issued a SNOWTAM. A new acronym which is better related to RWY conditions should be created.</p>	<p>The new SNOWTAM could also be issued where there is standing water not necessarily associated with snow. However, there is no short plan currently to change the acronym. The IMP (WG-A) is conducting a thorough review of the NOTAM system. WG-A should be informed of this comment.</p>	<p>This is not an immediate problem (but should be considered by the IMP in future NOTAM improvements).</p>	
18	<p>Item F) (Depth of loose contaminant): Significant changes for standing water and slush: What is the reason for the upper limit for the significant change? What action is to be taken if a change of more than the upper limit occurs? <i>Ref.: PANS-Aerodromes II-I-13 Table II-I-2</i></p>	<p>Clarification needed</p>	<p>This is related to airport operator (not AIS/AIM).</p>	
19	<p>Item G) (Condition Description): It is clear that there could be different conditions on each third of the RWY. It is not clear whether it is possible to insert more than one condition on a single third of the RWY. If this is the case (contrary to our expectations), how must those conditions be inserted? (Syntax!) <i>Ref.: PANS-AIM Doc 10066, Appendix 4 SNOWTAM Format applicable on 5 November 2020, Instructions for Item G)</i></p>	<p>The dominant contamination or the one which may have the most severe safety consequences should normally be reported. (Please read ICAO Circular 355, paragraph 4.47, for more details on “Multiple Contaminants”.)</p>	<p>The problem has been partially resolved.</p>	
19	<p>Item I) – Reduced runway length: conditional: only when a NOTAM has been published with a new set of declared distances.</p>	<p>It can be understood from the note to Item I) that: when runway length is reduced owing to</p>	<p>The problem has been partially resolved.</p>	



	<p>Does this mean that a NOTAM containing the new RWY length has to be issued in addition to the SNOWTAM if the clearance does not cover the whole length of the RWY, or does it mean that the reduced RWY length has to be inserted if a NOTAM was published concerning the reduced RWY length (of the dry RWY)? <i>Ref.: PANS-AIM Doc 10066, Appendix 4 SNOWTAM Format applicable on 5 November 2020, Instructions for Item I, in particular Note to Item)</i></p>	<p>the closure of part of a runway (as a result of contaminant on the runway which has not been cleared), a SNOWTAM should be issued with the new runway length (Item I) and a NOTAM should also be issued together with the SNOWTAM to indicate the new declared distances. The SNOWTAM is not the consequence of the NOTAM or vice versa. Both should be issued as a consequence of the closure of part of a runway due to a contaminant. The wording of the note may have caused confusion (ICAO to consider).</p>		
20	<p>MEASURED FRICTION COEFFICIENT (Item S) a. In order to be able to recognize Item S and not to confuse it with Item T (text) during SNOWTAM processing/parsing, it is necessary to know the format of Item S. In the current Annex 15, it is a single digit for each third of the runway, separated by an oblique stroke (/): 5/5/5. Will this format remain the same?</p>	<p>Automated systems might need to have a defined format for Item S in order for this item to be recognized and also to allow Item S and the next item (Item T) to be distinguished. Clarification needed by ICAO</p>	<p>Confusion for automated systems to recognize and analyse SNOWTAM messages</p>	