

## CHAPTER 5. EN-ROUTE METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST INFORMATION

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*Editorial Note.— Insert new Section 5.3 as follows:*

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### 5.3 FORECASTS OF QUANTITATIVE VOLCANIC ASH CONCENTRATION INFORMATION

5.3.1 Grid point forecasts of quantitative volcanic ash concentration shall be prepared by a VAAC in a regular grid with a horizontal resolution of 0.25° of latitude and longitude and vertical height ranges in accordance with Appendix 9, Table A9-1.

5.3.2 In addition to 5.3.1, a VAAC shall prepare relative frequency of exceedance probabilities for the volcanic ash concentration thresholds of 10, 5, 2 and 0.2 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.

5.3.3 Forecasts of quantitative volcanic ash concentration information shall be valid for fixed times of 0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21 and 24 hours after the time (0000, 0600, 1200 and 1800 UTC) of the synoptic data on which the forecasts were based.

5.3.4 Updated forecasts of quantitative volcanic ash concentration information shall be issued as necessary but at least every six hours until the volcanic ash “cloud” is no longer considered to be significant.

*Note.— Significant volcanic ash “clouds” in this context means an ash “cloud” that poses a widespread impact to aircraft operations and air navigation. Guidance on the criteria is provided in the Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) — Operational Procedures and Contact List (Doc 9766).*

5.3.5 Forecasts of quantitative volcanic ash concentration information shall be disseminated in an appropriate gridded code form prescribed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

*Note.— Appropriate gridded code forms prescribed by the WMO are contained in the Manual on Codes (WMO-No. 306).*

5.3.6 In addition to 5.3.5, quantitative volcanic ash concentration information shall be made available as objects in IWXXM form for the very high, high, medium and low quantitative volcanic ash concentration ranges given in Appendix 9, Table A9-2.

*Note.— The technical specifications for IWXXM are contained in the Manual on Codes (WMO – No.306), Volume I.3, Part D — Representations Derived from Data Models. Guidance on the implementation of IWXXM is provided in the Manual on the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) (Doc 10003).*

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End of new section.

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