

SUBJECT : REPLACEMENT OF GAFOR BULLETIN WITH AUTOMATED VISIBILITY AND CLOUD HEIGHT MAPS

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this circular is to inform aeronautical users of the evolution of the GAFOR bulletin production for general aviation and its replacement with automated visibility and cloud height maps starting during the first half of November 2019.

2 CONTEXT

GAFOR (General Aviation FORecast) is a forecast bulletin for general aviation, developed in metropolitan France for 94 climatologically homogeneous zones and available on Aéroweb. It describes, for a given area, the prevailing dominant conditions of visibility and cloud height (the height is linked to the minimum sector altitude), over the validity periods described in the messages. It is produced, for 6 hours, 3 times a day in winter and 4 times a day from May 1st till August 31st.

This bulletin whose design is old, is now very little consulted by users.

In addition, thanks to developments in digital forecasting, Météo-France is now able to produce automated maps of visibility and cloud height, based on values calculated from high-resolution fields derived from the forecasting model AROME. These ergonomic and zoomable maps have improved spatial and temporal resolutions compared to the current GAFOR.

Also, starting in the fall of 2019, in order to improve the service provided to general aviation, the production of the GAFOR bulletin will be replaced by the availability of visibility maps and cloud height from the forecasting digital model AROME. These maps available on Aéroweb will be updated 24 hours a day and will be produced for a forecast deadline of 30 hours maximum.

3 CONCERNED AREAS

Metropolitan France.