

SUBJECT : SUSPENSION OF THE VOLMET SERVICE PROVIDED BY FRANCE

This AIC cancels and supersedes AIC A 05/21.

1 CONTEXT

The VOLMET (meteorological information for aircraft in flight) service continuously transmits by radio frequency and telephone meteorological information for select aerodromes. In France, meteorological information messages (containing information from TAF, SIGMET and METAR) are transmitted by three ACCs : Bordeaux, Marseille and Paris. Each ACC has a list of associated aerodromes, whether in France or neighboring countries, and broadcasts weather information on two frequencies, one in French and the second in English. The list of associated aerodromes is appended to this AIC.

Various consultations with commercial and non-commercial users suggest that the VOLMET service provided by France, put in place almost 50 years ago, may no longer be useful since data broadcast via VOLMET can be accessed more directly and easily via :

- The ACARS service ;
- Enroute Flight Information Service ;
- ATC units responsible for providing air traffic control service on the approach, arrival and departure of the aerodrome under consideration ;
- ATIS services ;
- Web services.

2 SUSPENSION OF THE VOLMET SERVICE PROVIDED BY FRANCE

In this context, it was decided to suspend the VOLMET service provided by France for a six months trial period, from June 10th to December 9th 2021. A NOTAM was issued to inform of this suspension.

The French CAA's assessment of the outcome of this trial is that the French VOLMET broadcast service is no longer needed. As a result, the suspension of the service is extended for 3 months, i.e. until March 9, 2022 inclusive. This period should allow for the completion of the remaining steps for the termination of the French VOLMET broadcast service. A new NOTAM has been issued to inform of this new 3-month suspension.

3 ACCOMPANYING MEASURES

ATCOs at the concerned air traffic services units have been informed of this extension of the suspension period and made aware of the possibility that additional requests for weather information might be made over VHF radio communication.

APPENDIX

ACC BROADCASTING VOLMET MESSAGES

CRNA / ACC	Fréquence / Frequency (MHz)	Langue / Language	Aérodromes / Aerodromes
Bordeaux	126,405	Anglais / English	Bordeaux, Toulouse, Paris CDG, Paris Orly, Madrid, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Lisbon, Geneva.
	127,005	Français / French	Bordeaux, Toulouse, Tarbes, Biarritz, Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Paris Orly, Paris CDG, Lille, Pau, Tours.
Marseille	127,405	Anglais / English	Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Geneva, Paris CDG, Rome, Milan, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona.
	128,605	Français / French	Marseille, Nice, Ajaccio, Bastia, Lyon, Toulouse, Paris Orly, Paris CDG, Lille, Montpellier, Nîmes.
Paris	126,005	Anglais / English	Paris CDG, Paris Orly, Lyon, Geneva, Zurich, London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Brussels, Amsterdam.
	125,150	Français / French	Paris Orly, Paris CDG, Nantes, Tours, Beauvais, Lille, Brest, Strasbourg, Bâle-Mulhouse, Reims.