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Are you ready for the new GRF?

6 steps to help you prepare
for the new reporting format

Aviation

The Global Reporting Format (GRF) and you

In 2015, ICAO introduced the Global Reporting Format (GRF) for Runway Condition Reporting (RCR). The GRF aims to help reduce the number of runway excursions due to contaminants on the runway, such as water, snow and ice, by standardising the way runway surface conditions are reported.

With a standardised report, aircraft performance during take-off and landing can be determined accurately. For countries experiencing only water as a contaminant, a simplified version of the reporting standard can be applied.

Over the past four years, ICAO has been communicating with all member states on this topic to solicit feedback and create awareness. With less than a year to go until the global implementation date of 5 November 2020 for the new reporting format, the focus has now shifted to urging airports and regulators to start preparing.

Here at NACO, we have been monitoring the developments around the GRF and have developed proactive approaches for supporting airports as they adopt and work with the new reporting format.

In this short article, we will take you through the 6 key steps you can start taking from today in preparation for the GRF.



- 1** Understand the GRF and identify your project leads
- 2** Align your core stakeholders
- 3** Develop a system to determine runway conditions
- 4** Generate, communicate and disseminate RCR
- 5** Train your staff; practice tasks
- 6** Roll out RCR

Overview of the 6 steps for preparing for GRF

The 6 steps to get your airport GRF ready

Complying with the new regulations for reporting may seem daunting at first. For this reason, we have identified the 6 most important steps airports can start taking today to prepare themselves for the global implementation on 5 November 2020.

1. Understand GRF and identify your GRF project leads

Familiarisation with the requirements of GRF is essential as a first step towards its implementation. The first step is to understand exactly what GRF is about. The [ICAO website](#) is the best place to start. In parallel, we recommend that you appoint a project lead - along with a number of key contacts - within your organisation, with the aim of building them up as in-house GRF experts.

2. Align your core stakeholders

Airports have a complex stakeholder environment. With GRF, the most important stakeholders need to be aligned to ensure successful implementation of the GRF. This means identifying all core stakeholders and establishing an overarching steering committee. The committee will be responsible for setting up and managing communication and decision making with the core stakeholders.

3. Develop a system to determine runway conditions

There are several ways to determine runway conditions either manually or automated. Each comes with its own advantages and disadvantages. Deciding on the most appropriate system will depend on weather and operating conditions at your airport(s). For airports that only experience water as a contaminant, a simpler reporting format can be used. Irrespective of the format used, key decision parameters for deciding on which system to choose must include: reliability, accuracy, impact on runway availability and availability of competent staff.

4. Generate, communicate and disseminate RCR

Once you have established a system to measure runway contaminants, the next step is to generate the Runway Condition Report (RCR). This RCR must be communicated to Air Traffic Control (ATC) for dissemination to pilots. To reduce the risk of error and increase the speed of reporting, this step can also be automated.





5. Train your staff; practice tasks

Perhaps the most important step of all is in training all members of staff who will be involved in implementing and executing the GRF. It is vital that staff also understand the role of each stakeholder and what needs to be communicated to whom. We would also recommend practicing individual tasks before implementation to improve implementation success.

6. Roll out RCR

Once all systems are in place, tests must be carried out to ensure the system actually works. Recording test results is an important step in ensuring acceptance amongst core stakeholders before the implementation date of 5 November 2020. During roll out, it is also essential to make sure that all your stakeholders ensure that their respective organisations are informed and aware of what is expected of them.

How NACO supports airports in implementing the GRF

NACO (Netherlands Airport COnsultants), part of Royal HaskoningDHV, is a world-leading airport consultancy and engineering firm with close to 70 years' experience working in the aviation and air transport industry.

NACO has provided integrated and multi-disciplinary airport planning and design services to over 600 airports in more than 100 countries. We work with our clients to resolve the increasing complexities that come with developing world-class, future-proof airports.

From extensive discussions with our clients, we know how the GRF can impact airports. Together with our team of experts, we are ready to support you and your airport in the implementation of the GRF. The 6 Steps outlined above, have been developed to give you the best possible start in preparing for the new reporting format.

And for airports that experience only water as a contaminant we will be offering:

- A simplified training course from January 2020
- An automated solution for generating real time RCR, without the need for runway closures for inspection.

For more information on how to implement GRF, please feel free to contact our expert, Pim Meyboom at NACO at:



Pim.Meyboom@naco.rhdhv.com

+31 (0)6 305 41 289