

Executive Council

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva

15-24 June 2016

Abridged final report with resolutions and decisions

Resolution 8 (EC-68)

AMENDMENTS TO *TECHNICAL REGULATIONS* (WMO-NO. 49), VOLUME I

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

Acknowledging the requirement to keep the WMO Technical Regulations up to date and ensure that the content is in conformity with the established format and guidelines,

Noting that the Secretary-General had hosted a workshop (Geneva, November 2015) to assist technical commissions and other bodies in the writing and updating of the WMO Technical Regulations on the basis of *Guidelines on the Preparation and Promulgation of the WMO Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 1127),

Having considered the recommendations from the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Council Panel of Experts on Education and Training regarding the updating of the WMO Technical Regulations to address the adjustments required to the criteria for recognition and reconfirmation of Regional Training Centres (RTCs) to bring them into line with the guidance laid down in *Guidelines on the Preparation and Promulgation of the WMO Technical Regulations*,

Reiterates that, at each of their regular sessions, regional associations should make recommendations to the following Executive Council session regarding the status of the RTCs located in their Region;

Decides to amend *Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49), Volume I, as provided in the annex to this resolution, effective as of 1 January 2017;

Requests the Secretary-General to:

- (1) Take account of the new criteria as well as the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in monitoring and supporting RTCs when drafting Memorandums of Understanding with the Members hosting RTCs;

(2) Publish a revision of *Technical Regulations*, Volume I, in 2016;

Requests the Executive Council Panel of Experts on Education and Training to finalize the draft guide for the recognition, reconfirmation and management of Regional Training Centres for publication in the second half of 2016.

Note: This Resolution replaces Resolution 15 (EC-66) which is no longer in force.

Annex to Resolution 8 (EC-68)

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE WMO TECHNICAL REGULATIONS TO BRING THE CURRENT TEXT INTO LINE WITH THE REQUIRED STYLE

Section 1: Update to Definitions

Regional Training Centre (RTC)

A national education and training institution, or group of institutions recognized by Congress or the Executive Council (following recommendation by the relevant WMO Regional Association) as:

- 1) Providing education and training opportunities for WMO Members in the Region, particularly NMHS staff;
- 2) Providing advice and assistance on education and training matters to other WMO Members; and
- 3) Promoting education and training opportunities in weather, water and climate for WMO Members.

These activities are undertaken in accordance with WMO regulations and guidelines. An institute supported by multiple Members to provide such services could also be recommended by the relevant regional association as an RTC.

Section 2: Replacement text for paragraphs in Chapter Four of Vol 1 of WMO-No. 49

4.5.1 Members should endeavour to provide national facilities, or participate in regional facilities, for the education and training of their personnel.

4.5.2 As not all national training facilities are recognized as regional training facilities, the criteria given in Appendix E to WMO-No. 49 Vol. 1 apply to each Member institution designated as being part of a WMO Regional Training Centre (RTC). Each such institution is referred to as an RTC component.

[Note: In recognizing, reconfirming and managing an RTC component, the regional association, the Permanent Representative of the host country, the Director of an RTC component and Coordinator of an RTC with multiple components take shared responsibility for the performance and ongoing status of the institution(s) as an RTC. Implementation guidance on the roles and responsibilities for each of the parties is provided in WMO Publication No. 1169 "Guide for the management and operation of WMO Regional Training Centres and other training institutions".]

Section 3: Replacement for Appendix E to WMO-No. 49 Vol. 1, WMO Technical Regulations

A Regional Training Centre (RTC) is a national education and training institution, or group of institutions, recognized by Congress or the Executive Council (following recommendation by the relevant WMO Regional Association(s)) as an RTC.

- 1) Providing education and training opportunities for WMO Members, particularly NMHS staff;
- 2) Supplying advice and assistance on education and training matters to WMO Members; and
- 3) Promoting education and training opportunities in weather, water and climate for WMO Members.

These activities are undertaken in accordance with WMO regulations and guidelines. An institute supported by multiple Members to provide such services could also be recommended by the relevant regional association as an RTC.

When a Member proposes an institution or a group of institutions to the relevant regional association for recommendation as an RTC the proposal shall meet the following criteria:

- 1) An RTC or component is established only to meet the expressed requirements of more than half of the Members of the regional association that cannot be met by existing resources;
- 2) An RTC or component is designed to meet the requirements of the Region, as expressed in a decision of the regional association as recorded in a resolution or statement in the general summary of the Abridged Report, though it is recognized that some RTC or components might also take on a broader international remit;
- 3) The RTC is located within the particular Region concerned and its location decided by the Executive Council, in the light of the recommendation of the regional association, the advice of the technical commission concerned and the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training, and the comments of the Secretary-General.

Each institution forming part of an RTC is considered to be an RTC component. To be designated as an RTC component, the Member hosting the institution shall ensure it has the

human and financial resources and facilities to satisfy the following:

Identifying learning needs

- The RTC component has processes in place to gain information about the education and training needs of the Region.

Designing the learning service

- The RTC component selects methods of learning that respond to the aims and requirements of the curriculum and learning outcomes, and are appropriate for the learners.
- The RTC component ensures that its courses of instruction and other activities (e.g. delivering/developing e-learning, running off-site activities and providing advice/support) are carried out in a way that is consistent with the standards and guidance material issued by WMO.
- The RTC component provides courses and other resources and activities that address the expressed education and training needs of the Region.

Delivering the learning service

- The RTC component demonstrates that, during the previous four years, it has made a contribution to meeting the education and training needs identified by the regional association.
- The RTC component delivers training: (a) with competent instructors in terms of their scientific/technical ability and training expertise; and (b) in an environment which is conducive to learning with adequate learning resources, buildings, ICT systems and training facilities.

Assessing learning and evaluating the learning service

- The RTC component assesses the knowledge and competency of students, documents this information in a fashion suitable for a recognized quality management system, and provides students with a record of the education and training that has been successfully completed.
- The RTC component has processes for measuring the effectiveness and quality of the learning service, including obtaining feedback from stakeholders.

Administering and managing the learning service

- The RTC component has adequate arrangements for administration, governance, planning, staffing, continuous professional development, reporting and self- assessment.
 - If the RTC component has no national accreditation as a provider of vocational training, the RTC component can demonstrate that it carries out its training activities in accordance with the requirements of ISO 29990:2010.
 - The RTC component produces an annual report on activities in the previous twelve months, and its plan for the next 12 months with an outlook for future years.
 - The RTC component is: (a) open to students from all countries in the Region and, subject to availability of resources, to interested countries in other Regions; and (b) has appropriate services in place to support international/regional students.
-

Annex-II : Role and Operations of RTCs

(Steps to improve the education and training provided through RTCs)

- (a) **To reinforce regional cooperation in the organization and operation of RTCs.** The existing arrangements for identifying regional training needs, and the procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of RTCs to satisfy these needs should be reviewed by the Regional Associations in partnership with the RTCs and the EC Panel. There should be enhanced cooperation between Regional Training Centres and NMHSs to ensure their activities are complementary.
- (b) **To improve awareness of the capabilities of RTCs.** The RTCs, their host countries and WMO should be active in ensuring the NMHSs are aware of the training programmes and facilities that are offered. RTCs and Regional Associations should share in entering into dialogue with NMHSs in their Region to ascertain their training requirements and how the RTCs might contribute to satisfying these needs. The memorandum of agreement between the institute, the host country and the WMO should spell out what is required of all parties to ensure that the RTC meets the needs of the region.
- (c) **To improve the planning of human resource development.** NMHSs should be more active in communicating to Regional Associations the planning for the development of their human resources so that the RTCs are able to anticipate the new requirements and develop their training programmes accordingly. For this to be successful there must be more emphasis on mobilising funds required for the national/regional implementation of those plans.
- (d) **To encourage lifelong learning and continuing professional development.** Policies and plans for the development of a lifelong learning culture should be introduced in NMHSs and RTCs in parallel with enhancing the availability of continuing education, both at the centres and using online and distance learning techniques. In particular, plans for the continuing professional development and specialization of the staff are also needed. Such initiatives may require changes to traditional management styles in order to cope with the new demands from public and private sectors, and more development and utilization of distance learning, especially for aeronautical meteorology, climate services and disaster risk reduction.
- (e) **To improve the content of education and training programmes.** Curricula and courses should be updated to adequately reflect the advancements in meteorological science and training techniques. In doing this, RTC should take into account **WMO 1083** and all WMO competency frameworks.
- (f) **To enhance the learning process.** Instructors should be encouraged to develop their training expertise so that they are able to promote active learning methods, integrate new technologies into the learning process, and be innovative in their approach to training.
- (g) **To improve access to training materials.** Improved access to training materials and meteorological information should be facilitated by initiating/accelerating connection of RTCs to the Internet. The international exchange of educational expertise, products and services in all areas should be encouraged.
- (h) **To strengthen the role of the Education and Training Program (ETRP).** The RTCs are a key component of the ETRP. The role of ETRP in monitoring international trends in education, assessing the results of educational research and their impact on WMO activities, and undertaking comparative analyses at regional/sub-regional training requirements should be strengthened. Also ETRP should continue to facilitate the promotion of joint projects to strengthen national and regional educational capacities, and seek partnerships between WMO and other relevant organizations to improve the quality of training in meteorology (including climatology), hydrology and related environmental disciplines.