# Timelines to the ITU/WMO Handbook approval

## Introduction

At its 2015 meeting held in Payerne, Switzerland, on 22-25 Sep 2015, SG-RFC considered the need to review and update the joint ITU/WMO Handbook [“Use of radio spectrum for meteorology: weather, water and climate monitoring and prediction”](http://www.itu.int/en/publications/ITU-R/pages/publications.aspx?parent=R-HDB-45-2008&media=electronic) in order to include new services and systems as well as changes in technology and in the Radio Regulations which appeared since the last edition of the Handbook in 2008. A first set of information was collected among SG-RFC members and a working draft of revision of the Handbook was proposed as an input contribution to ITU-R WP7C at its April 2016 meeting.

In order to facilitate the revision of the Handbook at its October 2016 meeting, WP 7C requested that the WMO coordination team contributed each chapter of the Handbook in a separate input document. This was done and during the October 2016 meeting of WP7C, a Drafting Group dedicated to the revision of the Handbook was created.

This Drafting Group reviewed the six contributions submitted by WMO and the modifications proposed were agreed by WP7C.

## Timelines

During the last WP 7C meeting held in Geneva on 24-28 October, 2016, participants were requested to provide any comments or proposed modifications to the Handbook to the WMO’s representatives preferably before the 15th of December 2016 and, regarding Chapter 3 (MetAids) for which minor modifications were made, to contact WMO CIMO experts to obtain information before next SG-RFC’s meeting (24-27 January, 2017).

Based on this approach, the last Handbook review could be performed at the WP 7C meeting planned in Geneva on 5-11 April 2017 in time to be sent to the 2nd day of SG 7 meeting planned for 12 April 2017 for final approval.

The question regarding the need to translate the handbook into 6 languages was raised as it was done for the current edition of the Handbook. In particular, due to the translation cost, it was decided to bring this issue to SG 7 for decision.

This approach will then allow WMO to reach its objective to complete the work and reach a joint ITU-R SG7/WMO final approval during 2017.

As agreed by SG-RFC and announced in ITU-R, the approved revision of the Handbook will also be a key point regarding the joint ITU/WMO workshop, firstly planned in June 2017, and proposed, after some discussions during WP7C meeting, to be postponed to October 2017, two days just before WPs 7B and 7C meetings. This would then minimize travel costs for the participants to both events. The proposed dates of the ITU/WMO workshop need to be confirmed, in particular regarding the availability of boardrooms.

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