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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 05-43  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1145 AM EST THU DEC 8 2005

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS  
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/  
SUBSCRIBERS  
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS  
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ROBERT J. MCLEOD  
CHIEF...AWARENESS BRANCH  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: HONOLULU WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/ OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN SIX NWS EVENT-DRIVEN PRODUCTS AND  
ONE ROUTINE MARINE PRODUCT: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 17 2006

REFERENCE: [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE /SCN/ 05-24](#)...OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN SEVEN NWS EVENT-DRIVEN PRODUCTS AND  
TWO ROUTINE MARINE PRODUCTS: EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1 2005: REMINDER AND  
UPDATE ISSUED OCTOBER 25 2005

ON TUESDAY JANUARY 17 2006 AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...THE  
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/ IN HONOLULU HAWAII WILL TRANSITION FROM  
EXPERIMENTAL VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ TO OPERATIONAL VTEC IN SIX NWS  
EVENT-DRIVEN OR NON-ROUTINE PRODUCT CATEGORIES. ONE WFO ROUTINE MARINE  
FORECAST WILL ALSO TRANSITION FROM USE OF EXPERIMENTAL VTEC TO OPERATIONAL  
VTEC ON JANUARY 17 2006. IF JANUARY 17 2006 IS DECLARED A NATIONAL  
CRITICAL WEATHER DAY...IMPLEMENTATION WILL OCCUR ON THE NEXT WEEKDAY NOT  
DECLARED A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY.

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CHANGE IS SOONER THAN SPECIFIED BY NWS POLICY  
/NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1805/. THE REDUCTION OF THE NORMAL ADVANCE LEAD TIME  
WAS APPROVED BECAUSE THE CUSTOMERS IN HAWAII HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY THE  
HONOLULU WFO ABOUT THESE SPECIFIC CHANGES AND HAVE NOT EXPRESSED ANY  
PROBLEM WITH THE JANUARY 17 2006 TRANSITION TO OPERATIONAL VTEC. THIS  
DATE PROVIDES MORE THAN 30 DAYS' CONTINUOUS USE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL VTEC  
CODE STRING IN THE AFFECTED PRODUCTS SINCE THE NOVEMBER 1 EXPERIMENTAL  
CODE START DATE AND MORE THAN 30 DAYS' ADDITIONAL TIME FOR ANY CUSTOMER  
USER BASE TO RESPOND TO THIS CHANGE TO OPERATIONAL CODE.

BEGINNING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE...THE FOLLOWING HONOLULU WFO TEXT  
PRODUCT CATEGORIES WILL CONTAIN OPERATIONAL VTEC:

WFO EVENT-DRIVEN PUBLIC PRODUCTS:  
WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION - WCN  
WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE - WSW  
NON-PRECIPITATION WEATHER MESSAGE - NPW

WFO EVENT-DRIVEN HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS:  
FLASH FLOOD WATCH - FFA

WFO EVENT-DRIVEN COASTAL AND MARINE PRODUCTS:  
COASTAL HAZARD MESSAGE /INCLUDING HIGH SURF/ - CFW

WFO EVENT-DRIVEN FIRE WEATHER PRODUCTS:  
RED FLAG WARNING AND FIRE WEATHER WATCH - RFW

WFO ROUTINE MARINE FORECASTS:  
COASTAL WATERS FORECAST - CWF

THIS IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE FOLLOWS THE SUCCESSFULL TRANSITION ON NOVEMBER 1 2005 BY ALL WFOS IN THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES /CONUS/ FROM EXPERIMENTAL VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ TO OPERATIONAL VTEC FOR THE ABOVE LISTED PRODUCT CATEGORIES AS REFERENCED IN [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 05-24 REMINDER AND UPDATE](#) ISSUED OCTOBER 25 2005.

THESE OPERATIONAL VTEC PRODUCT CATEGORIES WILL JOIN THE FIVE PRODUCT CATEGORIES WHICH BEGAN USING OPERATIONAL VTEC ON FEBRUARY 8 2005:

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING - SVR  
TORNADO WARNING - TOR  
SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT - SVS  
SPECIAL MARINE WARNING - SMW  
MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT /FOLLOW-UP TO SMW/ - MWS

COMPLETE INFORMATION ON VTEC CAN BE FOUND IN NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1703 AND AT THE VTEC WEB SITE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/VTEC](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS...PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE  
DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
301-713-0090 X 146  
[HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV](mailto:HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV)

OR

BILL WARD  
SCIENTIFIC SERVICES METEOROLOGIST  
PACIFIC REGION HEADQUARTERS  
HONOLULU HAWAII  
808-532-6415  
[BILL.WARD@NOAA.GOV](mailto:BILL.WARD@NOAA.GOV)

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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