

NOUS41 KWBC 091625  
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 07-06  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1145 AM EST FRI MAR 9 2007

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: ELI JACKS  
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN AREA FORECAST MATRICES...POINT FORECAST  
MATRICES...STATE FORECAST PRODUCTS AND ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT: EFFECTIVE  
WITH AWIPS BUILD 7.2

EFFECTIVE WITH EACH NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/  
INSTALLATION OF THE ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/  
BUILD 7.2...THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT CHANGES WILL OCCUR:

1. THE PRODUCT EXPIRATION TIME OF THE AREA FORECAST MATRICES  
/AFM/...POINT FORECAST MATRICES /PFM/...STATE FORECAST PRODUCT  
/SFP/...TABULAR STATE FORECAST PRODUCT /SFT/ AND ZONE FORECAST PRODUCT  
/ZFP/ CHANGES. THE PRODUCT EXPIRATION TIME FOR THESE PRODUCTS IS THE NEXT  
MANDATORY PRODUCT ISSUANCE TIME INSTEAD OF A STANDARD 15 HOURS FROM THE  
PRODUCT ISSUANCE TIME.

2. A NEW AFM/PFM VOLCANIC ASH FALL CODE /AF/ REPLACES THE OLD VOLCANIC  
ASH FALL CODE /VA/.

3. THE PROBABILITY OF PRECIPITATION /POP...USE LOWER CASE LETTER O/ IS  
INCLUDED IN THE ZFP FOR ALL CATEGORICAL /POP OF 80...90 OR 100/ FORECASTS  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOT REQUIRED BY NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-503 /WFO PUBLIC  
WEATHER FORECAST PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION/...DECEMBER 19 2005...SECTION  
9.3.5.3.G...CASES WHERE NO POP VALUE IS REQUIRED.

4. NIGHTTIME POP IS INCLUDED IN THE SFT.

THESE POP CHANGES PROVIDE A MORE REPRESENTATIVE FORECAST FOR PRECIPITATION  
DURING THE FORECAST PERIOD.

5. ONE OF THE AFM/PFM PREDOMINANT SKY COVER CATEGORIES CHANGES. THE  
AFM/PFM PREDOMINANT SKY COVER GREATER THAN 50 PERCENT AND LESS THAN OR  
EQUAL TO 87 PERCENT CATEGORY /CURRENTLY CODE BK/ IS SPLIT INTO TWO  
SEPARATE CATEGORIES:

A. SKY COVER CODE B1 /FORMERLY BK/ FOR CLOUD AMOUNTS GREATER THAN 50  
PERCENT AND LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 69 PERCENT IS EXPRESSED AS PARTLY SUNNY  
OR MOSTLY CLOUDY.

B. SKY COVER CODE B2 /FORMERLY BK/ FOR CLOUD AMOUNTS GREATER THAN 69 PERCENT AND LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 87 PERCENT IS EXPRESSED AS MOSTLY CLOUDY OR CONSIDERABLE CLOUDINESS.

THIS SKY COVER CODE CHANGE PROVIDES A MORE REPRESENTATIVE VALUE FOR CLOUD COVER AND MORE CLOSELY MATCHES THE AUTOMATED SURFACE OBSERVING SYSTEM /ASOS/ CRITERIA. THE TABLE IN THE LINK BELOW DESCRIBES THE COMPLETE SKY COVER CODES AND EQUIVALENT SKY COVER EXPRESSIONS USED IN THE AFM/PFM /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NDFD/RESOURCES/PFM SKY COVER CODE.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/ndfd/resources/pfm_sky_cover_code.htm)

AWIPS BUILD 7.2 SHOULD BE DEPLOYED BY MID-APRIL 2007. THE ABOVE CHANGES HAVE BEEN DETAILED IN NWSI 10-503 /WFO PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST PRODUCTS SPECIFICATION/ SINCE DECEMBER 19 2005.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE CHANGES PLEASE CONTACT:

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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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