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SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-46
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1050 AM EDT FRI JUL 11 2008

TO: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ OFFICES
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ USERS
FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER USERS OF NWS AVIATION FORECASTS

FROM: KEVIN L. JOHNSTON
CHIEF...AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: REMINDER: FORMAT CHANGE FOR TERMINAL AERODROME FORECASTS /TAFS/
FROM 24-HOUR FORMAT TO 30-HOUR FORMAT: EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5 2008

REFER TO: [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE /SCN/ 08-15...TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 08-16...TIN 08-17...TIN 08-18...TIN 08-24...TIN 08-25 AND TIN 08-30.](#)

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5 2008...ALL TAFS ISSUED BY NWS WILL CHANGE THE DATE AND TIME INDICATOR FORMAT IN THE TAF FROM THE PRESENT 24-HOUR FORMAT TO A NEW 30-HOUR FORMAT CONSISTENT WITH NEW INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION /ICAO/ RULES. THIS FORMAT CHANGE IS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT A CONSISTENT TAF FORMAT EVEN AS TAF VALID TIMES RANGE FROM A FEW HOURS UP TO AND INCLUDING 30 HOURS. ALL OF THE NEARLY 625 TAFS ISSUED BY NWS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE. A TABLE LISTING ALL THE AFFECTED TAFS IS LOCATED AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/AVIATION/PDFS/30 HR TAF TABLE1.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/aviation/pdfs/30_hr_taf_table1.pdf)

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ PERSONNEL AND OTHER EXTERNAL USERS RECEIVING NWS TAFS IN THE TAF COLLECTIVES BELOW WILL ALSO NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE CONTINUED ABILITY TO DECODE TAFS.

WMO HEADINGS	AVAILABLE TO THE FOLLOWING CUSTOMERS:
FTUS80 KWBC	NON-FAA DOMESTIC AND FAMILY OF SERVICES
FTUS90 KWBC	FAA WEATHER MESSAGE SWITCHING CENTER AND FAA FACILITIES
FTUS52 KWBC	GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM CUSTOMERS

NWS WILL SEND MONTHLY TEST TAFS SO USERS CAN CHECK AND EVALUATE THEIR ABILITY TO DECODE THE NEW DATE AND TIME FORMAT. A SEPARATE TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE WILL DETAIL THE TEST STRUCTURE AND METHOD. IN ADDITION...REMINDERS OF THE TEST TAF WILL BE PROVIDED THREE DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TEST DAY. A TAF TESTBED CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/AVIATION/TAF TESTBED.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/aviation/taf_testbed.htm)

IN ADDITION...TAFS FOR 32 LARGE AIRPORTS WILL BECOME VALID FOR 30 HOURS. THE SPECIFIC AIRPORTS AND TAFS SCHEDULED TO HAVE EXTENDED VALID TIMES WERE

ANNOUNCED IN SEPARATE NOTICES...SEE [TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 08-16](#)...[TIN 08-17](#)...[TIN 08-18](#)...[TIN 08-24](#)...[TIN 08-25](#) AND [TIN 08-30](#).

NATIONAL GUIDELINES REGARDING THE TAF WILL BE INCLUDED IN AN APPENDIX AS PART OF A FUTURE UPDATE OF NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-813 /TERMINAL AERODROME FORECASTS/ AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES/SYM/PD01008013CURR.PDF](https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01008013curr.pdf)

GUIDANCE TO NWS FORECASTERS FOR EDITING THE NEW TAF FORMAT WILL BE PROVIDED AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/NOTICE/TAF30.PHP](http://aviationweather.gov/notice/taf30.php)

THIS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE WILL BE REPEATED IN SEPTEMBER 2008 TO REMIND USERS THAT TAF FORMATS WILL CHANGE NOVEMBER 5 2008.

REPEATING: THIS CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5 2008...AND WILL AFFECT ALL TAFS PRODUCED BY NWS.

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE...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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