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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-55
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
930 AM EDT WED SEP 17 2008

TO: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ OFFICES
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ CUSTOMERS
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 0000 UTC NOVEMBER 5 2008

REFER TO: [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE /SCN/ 08-15...SCN 08-46...TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 08-16...TIN 08-17...TIN 08-18...TIN 08-24...TIN 08-25...TIN 08-30](#) AND [TIN 08-73](#).

EFFECTIVE AT 0000 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/ 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. THE EFFECTIVE TIME OF 0000 UTC WAS SET BY ICAO AND COORDINATED THROUGHOUT ITS MEMBERSHIP.

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:
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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

TEST TAFS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR USERS TO CHECK AND EVALUATE THEIR ABILITY TO DECODE THE NEW DATE AND TIME FORMAT. THESE TESTS WILL BE OCCURRING AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK THROUGH SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. [TIN 08-73](#) DETAILS THE TEST STRUCTURE AND METHOD. 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](#). THESE
CHANGES WILL TAKE EFFECT AT 0000 UTC.

NATIONAL GUIDELINES REGARDING THE TAF WILL BE INCLUDED 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 LETTERS/:

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

REPEATING: THIS CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE AT 0000 UTC 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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