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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-04  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
725 AM EST WED JAN 12 2010

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

FROM: CYNTHIA ABLEMAN  
CHIEF...AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: AVIATION WEATHER CENTER /AWC/ GRAPHICAL AIRMET /G-AIRMET/ BECOMES  
AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT: EFFECTIVE MARCH 16 2010

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE NO IMPACT ON NOAA WEATHER WIRE  
SUBSCRIBERS.

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY...MARCH 16 2010 AT 1500 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME  
/UTC/...THE NWS WILL BEGIN ISSUING A GRAPHICAL AIRMANS METEOROLOGICAL  
ADVISORY /G-AIRMET/ AS AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT.

THE G-AIRMET IS PRODUCED IN BUFR-FORMAT. IT IS A TIME SERIES DEPICTION OF  
AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS AND ELEMENTS OCCURRING WITH OCCASIONAL OR GREATER  
FREQUENCY THROUGHOUT THE CONTERMINOUS U.S. AND ADJACENT COASTAL WATERS.  
THE AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS AND ELEMENTS DEPICTED ARE:

- SURFACE VISIBILITY /IFR VIS/ BELOW THREE /3/ STATUTE MILES...INCLUDING  
THE WEATHER RESTRICTING THE VISIBILITY.
- CLOUD CEILINGS /IFR CIG/ WITH BASES LESS THAN 1000 FEET ABOVE GROUND  
LEVEL /AGL/.
- WIDESPREAD MOUNTAIN OBSCURATION /MTN OBSCN/ WHERE VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS /VMC/ CANNOT BE MAINTAINED...INCLUDING THE WEATHER CAUSING THE  
OBSCURATION.
- MODERATE TURBULENCE /MOD TURB/...INCLUDING THE TOP AND BOTTOM ALTITUDES  
OF THE TURBULENCE LAYER.
- SUSTAINED SURFACE WIND GREATER THAN 30 KNOTS /STG SFC WND/.
- NON-CONVECTIVE LOW LEVEL WIND SHEAR POTENTIAL BELOW 2000 FEET AGL  
/LLWS/.
- MODERATE ICING /MOD ICE/...INCLUDING THE TOP AND BOTTOM ALTITUDES OF THE  
ICING LAYER. WHEN THE BOTTOM ALTITUDE IS GIVEN AS FREEZING LEVEL  
/FRZLVL/...THE RANGE OF FREEZING LEVEL ALTITUDES IS ALSO PROVIDED.
- FREEZING LEVEL /FRZLVL/ CONTOURS AT THE SURFACE AND AT  
4000...8000...12000...AND 16000 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL.

- MULTIPLE FREEZING LEVELS /M\_FZLVL/...INCLUDING THE HEIGHT OF THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST FREEZING LEVELS.

THE G-AIRMET WILL BE ISSUED ROUTINELY AT 0255...0855...1455 AND 2055 UTC AND AMENDED AS NECESSARY BETWEEN ROUTINE ISSUANCES. EACH ROUTINE ISSUANCE IS VALID THROUGH 12 HOURS WITH A STANDARD TIME RESOLUTION OF THREE /3/ HOURS.

IRMET CONTAINS THREE /3/ BINARY UNIVERSAL FORM FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF METEOROLOGICAL DATA /BUFR/ MESSAGES FOR THE HAZARDS LISTED ABOVE:

/SIERRA/ FOR ITEMS 1 THROUGH 3.  
/TANGO/ FOR ITEMS 4 THROUGH 6  
/ZULU/ FOR ITEMS 7 THROUGH 9.

HEADER AND FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL /FTP/ INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLIST.PHP](http://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLIST.PHP)

A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAPHICAL AIRMET AND THE BUFR ENCODE/DECODE SCHEME IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/NOTICE/G-AIRMET](http://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/NOTICE/G-AIRMET)

REAL-TIME EXAMPLES OF THE GRAPHICAL AIRMET ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/PRODUCTS/GAIRMET/](http://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/PRODUCTS/GAIRMET/)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...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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