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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 12-21  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
1042 AM EDT Thu May 24 2012

To:           Subscribers:  
              -Family of Services (FOS)  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:        Cynthia Abelman  
              Chief, Aviation Services Branch

Subject: International Satellite Communications System (ISCS) Broadcast  
Ending: Effective July 1, 2012

Effective 0400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Sunday, July 1, 2012, the ISCS broadcast will cease when the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ISCS contract expires. NWS will make the ISCS broadcast data available via an https Internet service. Specifically, the NWS will make the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) global forecast data available on the WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS). Additionally, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association IV members and participating states can receive meteorological and aviation weather products through the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) Internet File Service (GIFS).

WIFS is used to provide WAFS products and related services as defined by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 3. WIFS is in compliance with ICAO Document 9855, Guidelines on the Use of the Public Internet for Aeronautical Applications, and the associated FAA Advisory Circular 00-62, Internet Communications of Aviation Weather and Notices to Airmen, dated November 1, 2002, which enables WIFS to support the dissemination of WAFS and related products via the Internet in accordance with ICAO Annex 10.

WIFS supplies the same WAFS meteorological products as those currently broadcast by ISCS. Such products include upper winds, upper-air temperatures, upper-air humidity, height of the maximum wind, tropopause height and temperature, and forecasts of significant weather phenomena. WIFS data can be accessed at:

<http://www.aviationweather.gov/wifs/>

WIFS is only available to specific users per the ICAO regulations referenced above. WIFS user access requests must be approved by the United States Meteorological Authority to ICAO, which is the U.S. FAA.

GIFS will make the ISCS broadcast products available for download via https over the Internet as a data pull service. GIFS will allow the current set of WMO Regional Association IV (RA-IV) ISCS users and other

select Member States to access products through the NWS issuance of authorized service usernames and passwords. All RA-IV ISCS users will need to transition from ISCS to GIFS by July 1, 2012.

Coordinating information and status updates on the GIFS implementation and transition is provided on the NWS ISCS webpage:

<http://www.weather.gov/iscs/countdown.php>

This website will be updated to keep you informed on the schedule, progress and status of this transition.

For technical questions and support in registering user access for WIFS, please contact:

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Aviation Weather Center  
Kansas City, MO  
816-584-7263  
[dennis.j.mcduffy@noaa.gov](mailto:dennis.j.mcduffy@noaa.gov)

For technical questions and support in registering user access for GIFS, please contact:

Robert Gillespie, PMP  
Program Manager, ISCS  
Silver Spring, MD  
301-713-9478, x 140  
[robert.gillespie@noaa.gov](mailto:robert.gillespie@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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