

NOUS41 KWBC 091658
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-116
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1158 AM EST Thu Nov 9 2017

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Allison Allen
 Chief, Marine, Tropical and Tsunami Services Branch

Subject: Use of Mixed-Case Text/95 ASCII Character Set in Selected Marine
Text Products: Effective December 12, 2017

Effective Tuesday, December 12, 2017, the NWS will transition the following marine (coastal and Great Lakes) text products issued by NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) from all capital letters to a mixed-case text format/expanded 95 American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) character set:

Product Name	AWIPS ID*	WMO ID
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Coastal/Lakeshore Hazards Message	CFWXXX	
Marine Weather Message	MWWXXX	
Special Marine Warning	SMWXXX	
Marine Weather Statement	MWSXXX	
Sea Ice Advisory	ICEAFC	FZAK80 PAFC
Sea Ice Outlook	ICOAFC	FZAK30 PAFC
Great Lakes Ice Outlook	CLEICELIO	FZUS81 KCLE
Great Lakes Freeze-up/Break-up Outlook	CLEICEGL	FZUS81 KCLE
St. Lawrence Seaway Freeze-up/Break-Up Outlook	BUFICESL	FZUS81 KBUF

*XXX is the WFO or Center Three-Letter ID.

All WFOs issuing the products listed above will transition them to mixed-case effective December 12, 2017, except for WFO Guam. That office will transition at a later date.

Examples of marine text products in mixed-case are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/pns/mc-marine2.docx>

and

<http://www.weather.gov/om/pns/mc-marine-p2a.docx>

All of the sample products are shown for sample formatting purposes only and have not been issued. If weather conditions prevent any WFO or National Center from making this change on December 12, 2017, the change to the mixed-case text format will occur on the next suitable day.

This roll-out of the mixed-case text format for marine products was preceded by the Marine Interpretation Message (MIM) on November 30, 2016. An initial phase that included mixed-case text for the routine marine forecasts for coastal and offshore waters and the Great Lakes was rolled out on June 1, 2017.

NWS will notify partners/users of future product implementations, including WFO Guam transition, via Service Change Notices (SCNs) with at least 30 days' lead-time. These notices will include Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) product identifiers and actual effective dates.

Partners and users of NWS text products should modify their systems to accommodate mixed-case and the expanded character set. This change will make text products easier to read and allow users to click on links directly rather than requiring conversion to lowercase or mixed-case.

U.S. Coast Guard broadcasts will not be impacted (Coast Guard will continue broadcasting the current character set) by this conversion to mixed-case.

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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