

NOUS41 KWBC 111505
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-87
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Offices
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: William Bauman
 Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Operational Implementation of Aviation Surface Forecast and
Aviation Cloud Forecast Graphics: Effective July 10, 2017

Effective July 10, 2017, the Experimental Aviation Surface Forecast and
Aviation Cloud Forecast graphics produced by the NWS Aviation Weather
Center (AWC) will transition to operational status.

The Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast graphics are
snapshot images derived from a subset of the aviation weather forecasts.
The products are valid for the continental United States (CONUS) and
coastal waters used within the Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA)
interactive web-based display which became operational April 13, 2017.
See Service Change Notice 17-31:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn17-31awc_exp_graphics.pdf

The static images are provided every three hours for one CONUS projection
and nine regional projections with 3-hourly forecasts of Surface
(predominant weather, visibility, wind) and cloud coverage and layer
(bases and tops) information out to 18 hours. Details of the forecast
graphics can be found in the Product Description Document (PDD):

http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD_AviationForecastGraphics_062217.pdf

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), pursuant to Title 49 United
States Code Section 44720, established requirements for this weather
information and service necessary for the safe and efficient conduct of
operations in the National Airspace System.

These graphics provide a low-bandwidth alternative to the GFA interactive
web-based display and are provided through NOAAPort/Satellite Broadcast
Network (SBN) and via the AWC webpage. The static images are intended for
FAA Flight Service Station (FSS) providers, commercial and General
Aviation pilots, operators, briefers and dispatchers with limited Internet
access.

These Portable Network Graphics (PNG) images will be available over NOAAPort/SBN. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) header information is as follows:

T1T2A1A2ii CCCC

CCCC is KPCI (Aviation Weather Center)

T1 = Q (Regional Static Graphic)

T2 specifies the forecast graphic as follows:

= I for the Aviation Clouds Forecast Graphic

= Z for the Aviation Surface Forecast Graphic

A1 = T (Northern Hemisphere)

A2 specifies the forecast time as follows:

= B for the 3-hour forecast

= C for the 6-hour forecast

= D for the 9-hour forecast

= E for the 12-hour forecast

= F for the 15-hour forecast

= G for the 18-hour forecast

When T2 = I, ii specifies the regional domain of the Aviation Clouds Forecast Graphic as follows:

= 00 for Continental United States

= 01 for Northeastern United States

= 02 for Eastern United States

= 03 for Southeastern United States

= 04 for North Central United States

= 05 for Central United States

= 06 for South Central United States

= 07 for Northwestern United States

= 08 for Western United States

= 09 for Southwestern United States

When T2 = Z, ii specifies the regional domain of the Aviation Surface Forecast Graphic as follows:

= 90 for Continental United States

= 91 for Northeastern United States

= 92 for Eastern United States

= 93 for Southeastern United States

= 94 for North Central United States

= 95 for Central United States

= 96 for South Central United States

= 97 for Northwestern United States

= 98 for Western United States

= 99 for Southwestern United States

Additionally, the Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast Graphics can be found at: <https://www.AviationWeather.gov/gfa/plot>.

Based on comments received by FAA and other NWS users, NWS plans to discontinue production of CONUS FAs. This change will occur after a 90-day parallel operations transition period starting when the GFA interactive web-based display and the Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Clouds Forecast graphics are implemented operationally. Formal public notification will be provided in advance of the action to discontinue the CONUS FAs.

The effective date of this change is sooner than specified by NWS policy (NWS Instruction 10-1805). The reduction of the normal advance lead time is needed to support the 90-day parallel operations transition period for FAA Flight Service providers.

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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