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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 04-09
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
430 PM EST THU MAR 4 2004

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: PAUL HIRSCHBERG
CHIEF...SCIENCE PLANS BRANCH
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM /GFS/ MODEL OUTPUT STATISTICS
/MOS/ GUIDANCE FOR TOTAL SKY COVER...CEILING HEIGHT AND VISIBILITY:
EFFECTIVE MAY 18 2004

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

ATTENTION USERS OF THE MODEL OUTPUT STATISTICS /MOS/ GUIDANCE:

ON TUESDAY...MAY 18 2004...WITH THE 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/
MODEL CYCLE...THE NWS WILL CHANGE THE CONTENT OF THE GLOBAL FORECAST
SYSTEM /GFS/ MODEL OUTPUT STATISTICS /MOS/ GUIDANCE. THE DEFINITION OF
CATEGORIES OF TOTAL SKY COVER AND CEILING HEIGHT WILL BE MODIFIED TO
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FEW /FW/ AND SCATTERED /SC/ CLOUDS AND BETWEEN
CEILINGS OF 1000-1900 FEET AND 2000-3000 FEET. DEFINITIONS OF THE
CATEGORICAL VISIBILITY GUIDANCE WILL ALSO BE MODIFIED.

THE NEW SKY COVER CATEGORIES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

CL = CLEAR
FW = > 0 to 2 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER
SC = > 2 to 4 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER
BK = > 4 to < 8 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER
OV = 8 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER OR TOTALLY OBSCURED

THE NEW CATEGORICAL NUMBERS FOR CEILING HEIGHT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

1 = < 200 FEET
2 = 200 TO 400 FEET
3 = 500 TO 900 FEET
4 = 1000 TO 1900 FEET
5 = 2000 TO 3000 FEET
6 = 3100 TO 6500 FEET
7 = 6600 TO 12000 FEET
8 = > 12000 FEET OR UNLIMITED.

DEFINITIONS OF THE CATEGORICAL VISIBILITY GUIDANCE WILL BE CHANGED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 = < 1/2 MILE
- 2 = 1/2 MILE TO < 1 MILE
- 3 = 1 TO < 2 MILES
- 4 = 2 TO < 3 MILES
- 5 = 3 TO 5 MILES
- 6 = 6 MILES
- 7 = > 6 MILES

TABLE 1. COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIERS FOR THE GFS-BASED MOS TEXT PRODUCTS WHICH WILL BE MODIFIED. THE ADVANCED WEATHER INTERACTIVE PROCESSING SYSTEM /AWIPS/ IDS ARE MAVXXX...WHERE THE FINAL XXX DENOTES THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION FOR WHICH THE GUIDANCE IS VALID.

WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID	GEOGRAPHIC REGION
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FOPA20 KWNO	MAVPA0	PACIFIC ISLANDS
FOUS21 KWNO	MAVNE1	NORTHEAST CONTIGUOUS U.S. /CONUS/
FOUS22 KWNO	MAVSE1	SOUTHEAST CONUS
FOUS23 KWNO	MAVNC1	NORTH CENTRAL CONUS
FOUS24 KWNO	MAVSC1	SOUTH CENTRAL CONUS
FOUS25 KWNO	MAVRM1	ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONUS
FOUS26 KWNO	MAVWC0	WEST COAST CONUS
FOAK37 KWNO	MAVAJK	SOUTHEAST ALASKA /JUNEAU/
FOAK38 KWNO	MAVAFC	CENTRAL ALASKA /ANCHORAGE/
FOAK39 KWNO	MAVAFG	NORTHERN ALASKA /FAIRBANKS/

A TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MODIFIED SHORT-RANGE GFS MOS FORMAT CAN BE FOUND AT THE URL LISTED BELOW /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/MDL/SYNOP/TPB/GFSMOS2004T0012.PDF](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/tpb/gfsmos2004t0012.pdf)

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/MDL/SYNOP/TPB/GFSMOS2004T0618.PDF](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/tpb/gfsmos2004t0618.pdf)

LINKS TO THESE PRODUCTS...ALONG WITH DESCRIPTIONS...CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/MDL/SYNOP/PRODUCTS.SHTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/products.shtml)

NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE BINARY UNIVERSAL FORM FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF METEOROLOGICAL DATA /BUFR/ /GRIDDED BINARY/ MOS MESSAGES AT THIS TIME.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE CHANGES TO THE MOS GUIDANCE SYSTEM...PLEASE CONTACT:

PAUL DALLAVALLE
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NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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