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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-40 AMENDED  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
245 PM EDT WED AUG 6 2008

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

FROM: KEVIN L. JOHNSTON  
CHIEF...AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH  
NWS OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: AMENDED: AVIATION WEATHER CENTER /AWC/ GRAPHICAL AIRMET /G-  
AIRMET/ BECOMES AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT: EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1 2008

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

AMENDED TO CHANGE THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE TO OCTOBER 1 2008.

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1 2008 AT 1500 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME  
/UTC/...NWS WILL BEGIN ISSUING A GRAPHICAL AIRMANS METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY  
/G-AIRMET/ AS AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT.

THE G-AIRMET IS A TIME SERIES DEPICTION OF AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS AND  
ELEMENTS OCCURRING WITH OCCASIONAL OR GREATER FREQUENCY THROUGHOUT THE  
CONTERMINOUS U.S. /CONUS/ AND ADJACENT COASTAL WATERS IN BINARY UNIVERSAL  
FORM FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF METEOROLOGICAL DATA /BUFR/ FORMAT. THE  
AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS AND ELEMENTS DEPICTED ARE:

1. SURFACE VISIBILITY /INSTRUMENT FLIGHT RULES /IFR/ VIS/ BELOW THREE /3/  
STATUTE MILES...INCLUDING THE WEATHER CAUSING THE VISIBILITY RESTRICTION.
2. CLOUD CEILINGS /IFR CIG/ WITH BASES LESS THAN 1000 FEET ABOVE GROUND  
LEVEL /AGL/.
3. WIDESPREAD MOUNTAIN OBSCURATION /MTN OBSCN/ WHERE VISUAL  
METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS /VMC/ CANNOT BE MAINTAINED...INCLUDING THE  
WEATHER CAUSING THE OBSCURATION.
4. MODERATE TURBULENCE /MOD TURB/...INCLUDING THE TOP AND BOTTOM  
ALTITUDES OF THE TURBULENCE LAYER.
5. SUSTAINED SURFACE WIND GREATER THAN 30 KNOTS /STG SFC WND/.
6. NON-CONVECTIVE LOW LEVEL WIND SHEAR POTENTIAL BELOW 2000 FEET AGL  
/LLWS/.

7. 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.

8. FREEZING LEVEL /FRZLVL/ CONTOURS AT THE SURFACE AND AT 4000...8000...12000 AND 16000 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL.

9. 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 TIME RESOLUTION OF NO MORE THAN THREE /3/ HOURS.

THERE ARE THREE /3/ BUFR MESSAGES IN THE G-AIRMET:

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

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/TESTBED/GFA](http://aviationweather.gov/testbed/gfa)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...CONTACT:

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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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