

NOUS41 KWBC 261940
PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-74
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
340 PM EDT FRI SEP 26 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: AVIATION WEATHER CENTER /AWC/ GRAPHICAL AIRMET /G-AIRMET/ WILL BE
EXPERIMENTAL: EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1 2008

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

REFERENCE: [TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE /TIN/ 08-40](#).

AS OF OCTOBER 1 2008...THE GRAPHICAL AIRMANS METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY /G-AIRMET/ WILL BE CLASSIFIED EXPERIMENTAL UNTIL THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ COMPLETES A REQUIRED OPERATIONAL SUITABILITY EVALUATION AND A SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT. THE TEXT AIRMET BULLETIN REMAINS OPERATIONAL AND AVAILABLE FOR FLIGHT PLANNING OR BRIEFING PURPOSES. TABLE 1 SHOWS THE AIRMET BULLETINS AVAILABLE FOR THE CONTIGUOUS U.S. /CONUS/.

THE EXPERIMENTAL G-AIRMET IS A TIME SERIES DEPICTION OF AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS AND ELEMENTS OCCURRING WITH OCCASIONAL OR GREATER FREQUENCY THROUGHOUT THE 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 EXPERIMENTAL G-AIRMET WILL BE ISSUED ROUTINELY AT 0255...0855...1455 AND 2055 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /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/.

A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL 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 EXPERIMENTAL GRAPHICAL AIRMET ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/TESTBED/GFA](http://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/TESTBED/GFA)

TABLE 1: AIRMET BULLETINS FOR CONUS

WMO HEADER	AWIPS ID	DESCRIPTION	PORTION OF CONUS
WAUS41 KPCI	MKCWA1S	AIRMET SIERRA	NORTHEASTERN
WAUS41 KPCI	MKCWA1T	AIRMET TANGO	NORTHEASTERN
WAUS41 KPCI	MKCWA1Z	AIRMET ZULU	NORTHEASTERN
WAUS42 KPCI	MKCWA2S	AIRMET SIERRA	SOUTHEASTERN
WAUS42 KPCI	MKCWA2T	AIRMET TANGO	SOUTHEASTERN
WAUS42 KPCI	MKCWA2Z	AIRMET ZULU	SOUTHEASTERN
WAUS43 KPCI	MKCWA3S	AIRMET SIERRA	NORTH CENTRAL
WAUS43 KPCI	MKCWA3T	AIRMET TANGO	NORTH CENTRAL
WAUS43 KPCI	MKCWA3Z	AIRMET ZULU	NORTH CENTRAL
WAUS44 KPCI	MKCWA4S	AIRMET SIERRA	SOUTH CENTRAL
WAUS44 KPCI	MKCWA4T	AIRMET TANGO	SOUTH CENTRAL
WAUS44 KPCI	MKCWA4Z	AIRMET ZULU	SOUTH CENTRAL
WAUS45 KPCI	MKCWA5S	AIRMET SIERRA	ROCKY MOUNTAIN
WAUS45 KPCI	MKCWA5T	AIRMET TANGO	ROCKY MOUNTAIN
WAUS45 KPCI	MKCWA5Z	AIRMET ZULU	ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WAUS46 KPCI MKCWA6S AIRMET SIERRA PACIFIC COAST
WAUS46 KPCI MKCWA6T AIRMET TANGO PACIFIC COAST
WAUS46 KPCI MKCWA6Z AIRMET ZULU PACIFIC COAST

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...CONTACT:

CLINTON E. WALLACE
CHIEF...AVIATION BRANCH
AVIATION WEATHER CENTER
KANSAS CITY MISSOURI
PHONE: 816-584-7248
EMAIL: CLINTON.WALLACE@NOAA.GOV

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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