

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-807**

**May 19, 2009**

**Operations and Services**

**Aviation Weather Services, NWSPD 10-8**

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**OPR:** W/OS23 (M. Graf)

**Certified by:** W/OS23 (C. Abelman)

**Type of Issuance:** Routine

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** Supersedes National Weather Service Instruction 10-807, International Service Agreements, and dated January 26, 2007. Changes include:

Paragraph 2: Spelled out the names of the U.S territories, possessions, and the Compact of Free Association countries.

Paragraph 4: Clarified the criteria for providing international information. Removed discussion of domestic flight information since this directive is concerned with international service. The actual services provided to international flights, and listed in paragraph 6, remain unchanged.

//Signed//

May 5, 2009

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David Caldwell

Date

Director, Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services

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1. Purpose. This instruction details procedures for National Weather Service (NWS) Regional Headquarters (RH), National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) offices and Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in meeting valid international aviation Meteorological (MET) requirements.

2. Background. The United States, as a Contracting State in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has agreed to provide international meteorological services in support of international air navigation in accordance with the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) of Annex 3 to the provisions of Article 37 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago 1944). The provision of international meteorological services includes the United States, U.S. territories and possessions (Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the US Virgin Islands), Compact of Free Association (CFA) countries (Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands), and Oceanic Flight Information Regions.

Further, ICAO requires each Contracting State to designate a MET Authority. In the United States the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the designated MET Authority, and the FAA in turn designated the NWS as the provider of international MET services. The NWS provides these services in accordance with Annex 3 and the appropriate Regional Air Navigation (RAN) agreements.

Key components involved in the provision of international meteorological services in the U.S. are:

- a. The Washington World Area Forecast Center (WAFC), consisting of two NCEP centers (Central Operations at Camp Springs, Maryland and Aviation Weather Center (AWC) in Kansas City, Missouri), and the Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) in Silver Spring, Maryland;
- b. the Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) at the AWC;
- c. the MWO at the Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) in Anchorage, Alaska;
- d. the MWO at the WFO in Honolulu, Hawaii;

- e. the Anchorage Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) at the AAWU;
- f. the Washington VAAC containing elements of NCEP Central Operations and NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) in Camp Springs, Maryland;
- g. the Tropical Cyclone Advisory Center (TCAC) at the National Hurricane Center located at NCEP's Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) in Miami, Florida;
- h. the TCAC at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center located at the WFO in Honolulu; and
- i. the WFOs which provide Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs).

3. Definition of Unique Terms. The following terms have unique definitions for international aviation service:

- a. Requirement: a valid need, not necessarily something the U.S. is required to provide. The U.S. Meteorological Authority determines the services to be provided. Paragraph 2.1.3 of Annex 3 is applicable.
- b. Provide: used solely in connection with the provision of service, including copies of appropriate forecasts (i.e., flight documentation).
- c. Issue: used solely in connection with cases where the obligation specifically extends to sending out the information to a user.
- d. Make available: used solely in connection with cases where the obligation ends with making the information accessible to a user.
- e. Supply: used solely in connection with cases where either c. or d. above applies.
- f. Compact of Free Association countries: the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands, located in the northwest Pacific Ocean.

4. General. The following criteria determine whether flights receive international documentation:

- a. Flights between the Conterminous U.S. (CONUS) and Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, U.S. territories and possessions, or CFA countries (even though formally classified as domestic, these flights occur outside of CONUS).
- b. Flights from the CONUS to outside the United States, including those that are scheduled to make an intermediate stop in Canada before continuing to a destination outside the United States.

5. Correspondence with Foreign MET Services. Correspondence regarding service to international aviation will be conducted according to the following precepts.

- a. The NOAA Administrator normally corresponds with directors of foreign MET services. However, the NWS Director has been delegated authority to correspond directly with foreign MET service directors on operational matters covered by existing policy.
- b. In urgent cases dealing with operational matters covered by existing policy, any of the following individuals or their designees may contact others having comparable functions and status in foreign MET services:
  - (1) The Director, NCEP
  - (2) The Director, TPC
  - (3) The Director, AWC
  - (4) The Director, Pacific Region
  - (5) The Director, Alaska Region
  - (6) The Meteorologists in Charge (MIC) at the AAWU and WFO Honolulu.

The Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) should be informed as soon as possible, about any such correspondence. OCWWS will coordinate relevant issues with the FAA.

6. Services Provided. The recommended procedures for providing meteorological services to international air navigation are contained in (but not limited to) five ICAO documents.

- a. Annex 3, Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, prescribes basic meteorological service obligations of ICAO Contracting States to support international air navigation, and presents detailed procedures and guidance desirable for uniform fulfillment of those basic obligations;
- b. Regional Supplementary Procedures, ICAO Doc. 7030, details different operating conditions encountered throughout the world;
- c. RAN agreements which include regional SARPS. The RAN only documents those SARPS which are allowed by Annex 3 and are unique to that Region;
- d. Location Indicators, ICAO Doc. 7910, contain indicators for geographical locations throughout the world;

- e. PANS-ICAO Abbreviations and Codes, Doc. 8400 contain abbreviations and codes approved for worldwide use in international aeronautical telecommunication service and aeronautical documents.

6.1 Preflight Planning Information and Flight Documentation. As a Contracting State of ICAO, the U.S. agreed to provide flight documentation services to the international aviation community. The AWC, within the framework of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS), provides this documentation to airlines at airports certified for international traffic within the U.S., its territories and possessions, and CFA countries. International flight folder documentation information is available via FAX Back service and duplicated on the Internet at: <http://aviationweather.gov/iffdp/>.

Flight folder documentation may consist of some or all of the following:

- a. current and forecast surface and upper-level winds, surface and upper-level air temperatures and humidity;
- b. significant enroute weather;
- c. METARs and SPECIs for departure, enroute alternates, and destination aerodromes;
- d. Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) for departure, enroute alternates, and destination aerodromes;
- e. Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET) and special air-reports along the route of flight; and
- f. Airmen's Meteorological Information (AIRMET) as required by air navigation agreement;

For flights of two (2) hours duration or less, flight folder information may be limited to c, d, e and f.

6.1.1 Meteorological Information Format. The MET, in consultation with the operator, will determine the type and format of meteorological information to be provided, and the methods and means of supplying that information. Usually, meteorological information will be supplied by one or more of the following methods:

- a. charts;
- b. tabular forms; and
- c. abbreviated plain-language text

7. Retention of Weather Documentation Materials. NOAA will retain information provided to airlines and dispatch companies for five (5) years.
8. Requests for Service. Requests for service will be sent to the AWC.