Service Change Notice 21-26 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1050 AM EDT Fri Jul 2 2021

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From: Bruce Entwistle
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Subject: Updated: Operational ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) Products for Aviation Will Be Delayed Until on or Around August 24, 2021

Updated to delay IWXXM products until on or around August 24, 2021.

NWS will introduce International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) products for aviation on or around August 24, 2021, a delay from the previously planned June 30, 2021 implementation date. These products include eXtensible Markup Language (XML) based representations for products standardized in ICAO Annex 3 and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) No. 49, Volume II. XML products including IWXXM are used for machine-to-machine operational exchanges of meteorological information used in aviation.

Testing found issues in data processing that will be fixed and re-tested by mid-July. Additional 30-day stability testing and configuration management push IWXXM availability on the NWS Telecommunication Gateway (NWSTG) into late August. NWS is also making IWXXM available via public Application Programming Interfaces (API) on or about September 30, 2021.

When implemented, the WMO ID headers below identify products that users can access via the NWS Telecommunication Gateway (NWSTG) under WMO defined T1T2 (from TTAAii) headers for the following IWXXM data types:

- LA -- Aviation Routine Report (METAR)
- LC -- Aerodrome Forecast ("short" Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF)) (valid times < 12 hours)
- LK -- Tropical Cyclone Advisory
- LN -- Space Weather Advisory (SWXA)
- LP -- Special Aviation Weather Reports (SPECI)
- LS -- Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET)
- LT -- Aerodrome Forecast ("long" TAF) (valid times >= 12 hours)
- LU -- Volcanic Ash Advisory
- LV -- Aviation Volcanic Ash (VA) Warning (VA SIGMET)
- LW -- Airmen’s Meteorological Information (AIRMET)
- LY -- Aviation Tropical Cyclone (TC) Warning (TC SIGMET)
NWS has already extended the use of XML formatted data to other non-
aviation operational products (e.g., Common Alerting Protocol [CAP]
messages), and with appropriate notification may extend the use of XML
formatted data to other existing operational NWS products.

Until the implementation date, global formatted IWXXM products may become
available in parallel with the Traditional Alphanumeric Content (TAC)
OPerational METeorological (OPMET) data.

For examples of real-time US TAFs in IWXXM version 3.0, go to the
following link:
https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/lt/

Other IWXXM messages may be available in the appropriate “l” folder in the
/data/raw/folder on tgftp.

More information about IWXXM files can be found in the Product Description
Document (PDD) linked below:

For more information or questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are available online at:
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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