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Service Change Notice 21-26  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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From: Bruce Entwistle  
Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) products for aviation will become operational on or around May 4, 2021

NWS will be introducing International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) products for aviation on or around May 4, 2021. 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.

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" 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 Warning (VA SIGMET)
- LW -- Airmen's Meteorological Information (AIRMET)
- LY -- Aviation Tropical Cyclone 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 Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) in IWXXM version 3.0, go to the following link.

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/lt/>

The TAF, Volcanic Ash Advisory, and Space Weather Advisories will be the first U.S. aviation products available from the Washington OPMET databank and the WAFC Internet File Service (WIFS) later this year.

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

[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD\\_IWXXM\\_Operational\\_2021.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_IWXXM_Operational_2021.pdf)

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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