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SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45...AMENDED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
300 PM EST FRI JAN 28 2005

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
/EMWIN/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...
OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ CUSTOMERS
AND PARTNERS...AND NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: ROBERT J. MCLEOD
CHIEF...AWARENESS BRANCH
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER...AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: AMENDED...OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VALID TIME
EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN MOST NWS EVENT-DRIVEN PRODUCTS
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 8 2005...EXCEPT EFFECTIVE MARCH 16
2005 FOR WFO ANCHORAGE

REFER TO: SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45 ISSUED AUGUST 2 2005
SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-45 AMENDED ISSUED NOVEMBER 5 2004
SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 04-58 ISSUED DECEMBER 29 2004

AMENDED JANUARY 28 2005: IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC IN PRODUCTS
LISTED BELOW THAT ARE ISSUED BY WFO ANCHORAGE WILL BE DELAYED
FROM FEBRUARY 8 2005 TO MARCH 16 2005 AT 4PM AST/8PM EST. THIS
DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRODUCTS REFERRED TO IN SERVICE CHANGE
NOTICE 04-58.

AMENDED NOVEMBER 5 2004 TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC IN MANY
PRODUCTS. ANALYSIS OF THE COMBINED VTEC AND WATCH BY COUNTY
/WBC/ OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION DATA BY NWS AND NWS
PARTNERS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS RELATING TO VTEC:

- VTEC WILL BE OPERATIONALLY IMPLEMENTED IN FIVE SHORT-DURATION WARNING PRODUCTS ISSUED BY WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/ AND FINAL WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE MESSAGES /WOU/ ISSUED BY THE STORM PREDICTION CENTER /SPC/. SEE THE PRODUCT LIST BELOW.

- VTEC WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN EXPERIMENTAL MODE IN UPDATE WOU/S ISSUED BY SPC AND IN EXPERIMENTAL WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION MESSAGES /WCN/ ISSUED BY ALL WFO/S IN THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF HAWAII. SEE AMENDED SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES 04-47 AND 04-48 FOR DETAILS RELATING TO WBC PRODUCTS.

- THE OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF VTEC IN OTHER PRODUCTS...

INCLUDING ALL HYDROLOGIC AND FIRE WEATHER PRODUCTS... WINTER STORM AND NON-PRECIPIATION WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY PRODUCTS... AND MOST COASTAL AND MARINE PRODUCTS... WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN FUTURE SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES AT LEAST 120 DAYS BEFORE SUCH IMPLEMENTATION.

- SELECTED WFO/S WILL CONTINUE TO ISSUE OPERATIONAL AND TEST PRODUCTS CONTAINING EXPERIMENTAL OR TEST VTEC STRINGS UNTIL OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION.

ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8 2005 AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/... ALL WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/ WILL OPERATIONALLY IMPLEMENT THE VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ IN MOST SHORT-DURATION WARNING PRODUCTS ISSUED BY WFO/S AND IN THE NATIONAL WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE MESSAGE /WOU/ ISSUED BY THE SPC. IF FEBRUARY 8 2005 IS DECLARED A NATIONAL CRITICAL WEATHER DAY... IMPLEMENTATION WILL OCCUR ON THE NEXT WEEKDAY NOT DECLARED A CRITICAL WEATHER DAY.

THE VTEC ALWAYS IS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH...AND PROVIDES SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO... THE UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHIC CODE /UGC/ TO FURTHER AID IN THE AUTOMATED DELIVERY OF NWS TEXT PRODUCTS TO USERS. THE VTEC PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE EVENT. THE UGC DESCRIBES THE AFFECTED GEOGRAPHIC AREA.

THERE ARE TWO FORMS OF VTEC...THE PRIMARY OR P-VTEC AND... IN CERTAIN HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS... A SUPPLEMENTARY HYDROLOGIC OR H-VTEC ALWAYS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH AND OCCURRING ON THE LINE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE P-VTEC STRING/S/. NONE OF THE PRODUCTS OPERATIONALLY IMPLEMENTING VTEC ON FEBRUARY 8 2005 WILL CONTAIN THE H-VTEC STRING.

THE P-VTEC STRING/S/ AND ANY H-VTEC STRING/S/ OCCUR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE UGC STRING AND...DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE PRODUCT IS SEGMENTED OR NOT...WILL OCCUR IN DIFFERENT PLACES IN THE PRODUCT.

BEGINNING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE...THE FOLLOWING NWS WFO TEXT PRODUCT CATEGORIES WILL CONTAIN OPERATIONAL VTEC:

PUBLIC PRODUCTS

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING	SVR
TORNADO WARNING	TOR
SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT	SVS

COASTAL AND MARINE PRODUCTS

SPECIAL MARINE WARNING	SMW
MARINE WEATHER STATEMENT /ONLY THOSE WHICH FOLLOW UP AN SMW PRODUCT/	MWS

BEGINNING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE...THE FOLLOWING NWS

NATIONAL
TEXT PRODUCT CATEGORY WILL CONTAIN OPERATIONAL VTEC:

STORM PREDICTION CENTER PRODUCT

WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE

WOU

ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF VTEC TESTING ARE PLANNED IN 2005 FOR PRODUCTS TESTED THIS YEAR AND NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED OPERATIONALLY ON FEBRUARY 8 2005 AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED. THESE PRODUCTS INCLUDE HYDROLOGIC AND FIRE WEATHER PRODUCTS... WINTER STORM AND NON-PRECIPITATION WATCH/WARNING/ADVISORY PRODUCTS... AND SOME COASTAL AND MARINE PRODUCTS. TESTING WILL ALSO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL NWS TROPICAL WEATHER AND ROUTINE MARINE TEXT PRODUCTS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO INCLUDE VTEC AT A LATER DATE. THE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR ALL ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS WILL BE LISTED IN FUTURE SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES.

VTEC IS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-1703... WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON THE NWS DIRECTIVES WEB SITE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives)

NWSI 10-1703 WILL BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE CHANGES RECOMMENDED DURING THE RECENT VTEC/WBC OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION. THE UPDATED NWSI 10-1703 WILL BE POSTED IN DRAFT FORM ON THE VTEC WEB SITE LISTED BELOW BY NOVEMBER 30 2004. THE UPDATE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ON THE ABOVE NWS DIRECTIVES WEB SITE BY JANUARY 2005 AFTER FINAL INTERNAL NWS COORDINATION AND APPROVAL.

MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON VTEC CAN BE FOUND AT THE VTEC WEB SITE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/VTEC](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS...PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE
DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
PHONE: 301-713-0090 X 146
E-MAIL: HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV

THIS AND OTHER NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE POSTED ON /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm)

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