

NOUS41 KWBC 311227  
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 06-16  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
728 AM EST FRI MAR 31 2006

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: THERESE Z. PIERCE  
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGE TO VORTEX DATA MESSAGE PRODUCT FORMAT...  
EFFECTIVE ON OR AFTER JUNE 1 2006

ON OR AFTER JUNE 1 2006...THE MESSAGE TITLE OF THE VORTEX DATA  
MESSAGE /VDM/ PRODUCTS WILL BE MODIFIED TO INCLUDE A CODED  
STRING/STORM NUMBER IDENTIFIER IN ORDER TO FACILITATE USE OF THE  
DATA IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE /DOD/ AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
/DOC/ FORECAST AND DATABASE SYSTEMS. THE STORM NUMBER IDENTIFIER  
ADHERES TO A STANDARDIZED FORMAT USED IN SEVERAL OTHER TROPICAL  
CYCLONE TEXT PRODUCTS.

DOC AND DOD HURRICANE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT PROVIDE VORTEX DATA  
MESSAGES /VDM/ AS PART OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE OPERATIONS PLAN  
/NHOP/. THESE PRODUCTS AND ASSOCIATED HEADERS ARE PROVIDED IN  
TABLES 1 AND 2 FOR THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC HURRICANE BASINS  
RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 1. VDM FOR THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE BASIN

| FEDERAL AGENCY | WMO HEADING |
|----------------|-------------|
| DOC            | URNT12 KWBC |
| DOD            | URNT12 KNHC |

TABLE 2. VDM FOR THE EAST...CENTRAL...AND WEST PACIFIC HURRICANE  
BASINS

| FEDERAL AGENCY | WMO HEADING |
|----------------|-------------|
| DOC            | URPN12 KWBC |
| DOD            | UPPN12 KNHC |

THE CHANGE FOR THE DOC PRODUCTS WILL OCCUR ON JUNE 1 2006. THE  
CHANGE FOR THE DOD PRODUCTS IS EXPECTED TO OCCUR BETWEEN AUGUST 1  
2006 AND NOVEMBER 15 2006...PENDING NEW GROUNDSTATION AND  
AIRCRAFT SOFTWARE UPDATES.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE MESSAGE TITLE UNDER THE OLD FORMAT:

## VORTEX DATA MESSAGE

AN EXAMPLE OF THE MESSAGE TITLE WITH STORM IDENTIFIER UNDER THE NEW FORMAT:

VORTEX DATA MESSAGE AL272005

STORM NUMBER IDENTIFIERS ARE FORMATTED AS BBCCYYYY WHERE:

BB IS THE OCEAN BASIN

AL - NORTH ATLANTIC BASIN...NORTH OF THE EQUATOR

SL - SOUTH ATLANTIC BASIN...SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR

EP - NORTH EAST PACIFIC BASIN...EAST OF 140 WEST

CP - NORTH CENTRAL PACIFIC BASIN...BETWEEN THE  
INTERNATIONAL DATELINE AND 140 WEST

WP - NORTH WEST PACIFIC BASIN...WEST OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
DATELINE

CC IS THE CYCLONE NUMBER

NUMBERS 01 THROUGH 49 ARE RESERVED FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL CYCLONES. A CYCLONE NUMBER IS ASSIGNED TO EACH TROPICAL OR SUBTROPICAL CYCLONE IN A BASIN AS IT DEVELOPS. NUMBERS ARE ASSIGNED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

NUMBERS 50 THROUGH 79 ARE RESERVED FOR INTERNAL USE BY OPERATIONAL FORECAST CENTERS.

NUMBERS 80 THROUGH 89 ARE RESERVED FOR TRAINING...EXERCISES AND TESTING.

NUMBERS 90 THROUGH 99 ARE RESERVED FOR TROPICAL DISTURBANCES WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME TROPICAL OR SUBTROPICAL CYCLONES. THE NUMBERS ARE GENERALLY ASSIGNED SEQUENTIALLY AND MAY BE REUSED THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR YEAR.

YYYY IS THE FOUR DIGIT CALENDAR YEAR. FOR THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE... THE YEAR BEGINS EFFECTIVE 1 JULY WITH CALENDAR YEAR PLUS ONE.

COMPLETE VDM FORMATS ARE PROVIDED IN THE NHOP APPENDIX G. THE NHOP IS PROVIDED ON THE INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.OFCM.GOV/NHOP](http://www.ofcm.gov/nhop)

THE 2005 NHOP IS NOW POSTED ON THE INTERNET AND THE 2006 NHOP WILL BE POSTED BY JUNE 1 2006.

ALTHOUGH THE NOTIFICATION OF THE CHANGE TO THE DOC PRODUCTS PROVIDES LESS THAN THE REQUIRED 75 DAYS SPECIFIED IN NWSI 10-1805...A WAIVER WAS APPROVED BECAUSE THE FORMAT OF THE CHANGES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE /THE JUNE 1 BEGINNING OF THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON/ WERE AGREED UPON AND FINALIZED AT THE ANNUAL

MULTI-FEDERAL AGENCY HURRICANE CONFERENCE HELD LAST WEEK.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT

CHRIS SISKO  
TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER  
NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER  
11691 SW 17TH STREET  
MIAMI FLORIDA 33165

PHONE /305/ 229 4431

THIS AND OTHER SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT  
/USE LOWER CASE/:

[WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF/HTM](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF/HTM)

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