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SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-15
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1055 AM EST WED MAR 5 2008

TO: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ OFFICES
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ USERS
FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER USERS OF NWS AVIATION FORECASTS

FROM: KEVIN L. JOHNSTON
CHIEF...AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: FORMAT CHANGE FOR TERMINAL AERODROME FORECASTS /TAFS/
FROM 24-HOUR FORMAT TO 30-HOUR FORMAT:
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5 2008

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5 2008 ALL TAFS ISSUED BY NWS WILL CHANGE THE DATE AND TIME INDICATOR FORMAT IN THE TAF FROM THE PRESENT 24-HOUR FORMAT TO A NEW 30-HOUR FORMAT CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION /ICAO/ RULES. ALL OF THE NEARLY 625 TAFS ISSUED BY NWS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE. A TABLE LISTING ALL THE AFFECTED TAFS IS ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/AVIATION/PDFS/30_HR_TAF_TABLES.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/aviation/pdfs/30_hr_taf_tables.pdf)

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ PERSONNEL AND OTHER EXTERNAL USERS RECEIVING NWS TAFS IN THE TAF COLLECTIVES BELOW WILL ALSO NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE CONTINUED ABILITY TO DECODE TAFS.

WMO HEADINGS AVAILABLE TO THE FOLLOWING CUSTOMERS

FTUS80 KWBC NON-FAA DOMESTIC AND FAMILY OF SERVICES

FTUS90 KWBC FAA WEATHER MESSAGE SWITCHING CENTER
AND FAA FACILITIES

FTUS52 KWBC GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM CUSTOMERS

A MONTHLY TEST TAF WILL BE PROVIDED FOR USERS TO CHECK AND EVALUATE THEIR ABILITY TO DECODE THE NEW DATE AND TIME FORMAT. A SEPARATE TECHNICAL INFORMATION NOTICE WILL DETAIL THE TEST STRUCTURE AND METHOD. IN ADDITION REMINDERS OF THE TEST TAF WILL BE PROVIDED THREE DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TEST DAY. A TAF TESTBED CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/AVIATION/TAF_TESTBED.SHTML](http://www.weather.gov/os/aviation/taf_testbed.shtml)

IN ADDITION TAFS FOR 32 LARGE AIRPORTS WILL BECOME VALID FOR 30 HOURS. THE SPECIFIC AIRPORTS AND TAFS AFFECTED BY THE EXTENDED VALID TIMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN SEPARATE NOTICES.

NATIONAL GUIDELINES REGARDING THE TAF WILL BE INCLUDED IN AN APPENDIX AS PART OF A FUTURE UPDATE OF NWS INSTRUCTION /NWSI/ 10-813 TERMINAL AERODROME FORECASTS AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/DIRECTIVES/SYM/PD01008013CURR.PDF](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01008013curr.pdf)

GUIDANCE TO NWS FORECASTERS FOR EDITING THE NEW TAF FORMAT WILL BE PROVIDED AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/NOTICE/TAF30.PHP](http://aviationweather.gov/notice/taf30.php)

THIS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE WILL BE REPEATED IN JULY AND SEPTEMBER 2008 TO REMIND USERS THAT TAF FORMATS WILL CHANGE NOVEMBER 5 2008.

REPEATING: THIS CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5 2008...AND WILL AFFECT ALL TAFS PRODUCED BY NWS.

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE PLEASE CONTACT:

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NWS SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

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

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