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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-46
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1050 AM EDT FRI JUL 11 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: REMINDER: FORMAT CHANGE FOR TERMINAL AERODROME FORECASTS
/TAFS/ FROM 24-HOUR FORMAT TO 30-HOUR FORMAT:
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5 2008

REFER TO: SCN 08-15...TIN 08-16... TIN 08-17... TIN 08-18... TIN
08-24... TIN 08-25...AND TIN 08-30.

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 NEW INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION /ICAO/ RULES. THIS FORMAT CHANGE IS
PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT A CONSISTENT TAF
FORMAT EVEN AS TAF VALID TIMES RANGE FROM A FEW HOURS UP TO AND
INCLUDING 30 HOURS. ALL OF THE NEARLY 625 TAFS ISSUED BY NWS WILL
BE AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE. A TABLE LISTING ALL THE AFFECTED TAFS
IS LOCATED AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/AVIATION/PDFS/30_HR_TAF_TABLE1.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/aviation/pdfs/30_hr_taf_table1.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

NWS WILL SEND A MONTHLY TEST TAFS SO USERS CAN 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.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/aviation/taf_testbed.htm)

IN ADDITION...TAFS FOR 32 LARGE AIRPORTS WILL BECOME VALID FOR 30 HOURS. THE SPECIFIC AIRPORTS AND TAFS SCHEDULED TO HAVE EXTENDED VALID TIMES WERE ANNOUNCED IN SEPARATE NOTICES...SEE TIN 08-16... TIN 08-17... TIN 08-18... TIN 08-24... TIN 08-25...AND TIN 08-30.

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 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/:

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

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