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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-04  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
725 AM EST WED JAN 12 2010

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

FROM: CYNTHIA ABLEMAN  
CHIEF...AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: AVIATION WEATHER CENTER /AWC/ GRAPHICAL AIRMET  
/G-AIRMET/ BECOMES AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT:  
EFFECTIVE MARCH 16 2010

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE NO IMPACT ON NOAA WEATHER  
WIRE SUBSCRIBERS

EFFECTIVE TUESDAY MARCH 16 2010 AT 1500 UTC THE NWS WILL  
BEGIN ISSUING A GRAPHICAL AIRMAN'S METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY  
/G-AIRMET/ AS AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT.

THE G-AIRMET IS PRODUCED IN BUFR-FORMAT. IT IS A TIME SERIES  
DEPICTION OF AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS AND ELEMENTS OCCURRING  
WITH OCCASIONAL OR GREATER FREQUENCY THROUGHOUT THE CONTERMINOUS  
U.S. AND ADJACENT COASTAL WATERS. THE AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS  
AND ELEMENTS DEPICTED ARE:

1. SURFACE VISIBILITY /IFR VIS/ BELOW THREE /3/ STATUTE  
MILES...INCLUDING THE WEATHER RESTRICTING THE VISIBILITY.
2. CLOUD CEILINGS /IFR CIG/ WITH BASES LESS THAN 1000 FEET  
ABOVE GROUND LEVEL /AGL/.
3. WIDESPREAD MOUNTAIN OBSCURATION /MTN OBSCN/ WHERE VISUAL  
METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS /VMC/ CANNOT BE MAINTAINED...  
INCLUDING THE WEATHER CAUSING THE OBSCURATION.
4. MODERATE TURBULENCE /MOD TURB/...INCLUDING THE TOP AND  
BOTTOM ALTITUDES OF THE TURBULENCE LAYER.
5. SUSTAINED SURFACE WIND GREATER THAN 30 KNOTS /STG SFC WND/.
6. NON-CONVECTIVE LOW LEVEL WIND SHEAR POTENTIAL BELOW 2000  
FEET AGL /LLWS/.
7. MODERATE ICING /MOD ICE/...INCLUDING THE TOP AND BOTTOM  
ALTITUDES OF THE ICING LAYER. WHEN THE BOTTOM ALTITUDE IS  
GIVEN AS FREEZING LEVEL /FRZLVL/...THE RANGE OF FREEZING

LEVEL ALTITUDES IS ALSO PROVIDED.

8. FREEZING LEVEL /FRZLVL/ CONTOURS AT THE SURFACE AND AT 4000...8000...12000...AND 16000 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL.

9. MULTIPLE FREEZING LEVELS /M\_FZLVL/...INCLUDING THE HEIGHT OF THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST FREEZING LEVELS.

THE G-AIRMET WILL BE ISSUED ROUTINELY AT 0255...0855...1455... AND 2055 UTC AND AMENDED AS NECESSARY BETWEEN ROUTINE ISSUANCES. EACH ROUTINE ISSUANCE IS VALID THROUGH 12 HOURS WITH A STANDARD TIME RESOLUTION OF THREE /3/ HOURS.

G-AIRMET CONTAINS THREE /3/ BUFR MESSAGES FOR THE HAZARDS LISTED ABOVE:

- /SIERRA/ FOR ITEMS 1 THROUGH 3
- /TANGO/ FOR ITEMS 4 THROUGH 6
- /ZULU/ FOR ITEMS 7 THROUGH 9.

HEADER AND FTP INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLIST.PHP](http://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV/VIEWLIST.PHP)

A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAPHICAL AIRMET AND THE BUFR ENCODE/DECODE SCHEME IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/NOTICE/G-AIRMET](http://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/NOTICE/G-AIRMET)

REAL-TIME EXAMPLES OF THE GRAPHICAL AIRMET ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/PRODUCTS/GAIRMET/](http://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/PRODUCTS/GAIRMET/)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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AVIATION WEATHER CENTER  
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NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM)

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