

NOUS41 KWBC 081750 AAB
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 19-21 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
150 PM EDT Mon Jul 9 2019

To: Subscribers
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Bruce Entwistle
Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Termination of legacy METAR and TAF bulletins
distributed by the Washington OPMET Databank will be
delayed until a date to be determined.

Updated effective date to a date to be determined

The Washington Regional OPMET Databank (RODB) will be ending the transmission of hundreds of older legacy METAR and TAF collectives/bulletins at a date to be announced later. The previous date was May 21, 2019. These older collectives/bulletins are not International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) compliant nor are they Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications Network (AFTN) compliant. In addition, some U.S. Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF) in domestic format are being improperly routed internationally; this will also be ended.

Below are a few examples to highlight the changes. The first one is typical where the Washington RODB has replaced the originating countries CCCC identifier with KWBC:

SAMX31 KWBC 020045
METAR MNMG 020000Z 11010KT 9999 ...

This METAR was originally from Nicaragua and then re-built by the U.S. RODB as evidenced by the KWBC in the CCCC portion of the WMO ID.

Users should ensure they are not using these KWBC collectives/bulletins. Alternative sources include World Area Forecast System (WAFS) Internet File Service (WIFS), or any other state's collectives/bulletins distributed by the Washington RODB with the original state's CCCC in the WMO ID.

This next example is not a legacy collective/bulletin but a collective/bulletin for U.S. domestic purposes and incorrectly routed for international distribution.

FTPA31 PHFO 010520

TAF HMK
TAF PHMK 010520Z 0106/0206 03007KT

This TAF is in a domestic format (note the second line) that the United States uses to transfer U.S. TAFs from the Honolulu Forecast Office to the Washington RODB. From there the Washington RODB compiles Pacific U.S. OPMET data under one of the three ICAO/AFTN compliant U.S. collectives/bulletins: FTUS25 KWBC, SAUS25 KWBC and SPUS25 KWBC, then routes them internationally and to WIFS. International customers using U.S. METAR/TAF in the Pacific should be using these collectives/bulletins.

For more information or questions, please contact:

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