TO: Subscribers:  
- NOAA Weather Wire Service  
- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
- NOAAPort  
Other NWS Partners and Employees

FROM: Captain James Crocker  
Acting Director, Surface and Upper Air Division  
Office of Observations

SUBJECT: Updated: Transition of Manual Radiosonde Observations to Automated Radiosonde Observations at Anchorage, Alaska on or About May 3, 2019

Updated to report the missing Vaisala Autosonde products; RADAT, High Res BUFR, and NCEI archive, were implemented June 1, 2020.

Effective on or about May 3, 2019, radiosonde observations (RAOB) from Anchorage, AK, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)#70273, Station ID PAFC, will be transitioned from the manually launched Lockheed Martin 1680 MHz LMS6 radiosonde to the Vaisala 403 MHz RS41-SGPA radiosonde using the Vaisala Autosonde as the launch vehicle.

During the transition period of up to 30 days, dual radiosonde flights may be performed until the Vaisala Autosonde System is declared operational for the regularly scheduled observations of 00Z and 12Z.

Messages from the Vaisala Autosonde currently do not contain the following components: RADAT, High Res BUFR, National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) archive format. A software update was to be implemented in 2019 that will produce these data.

For additional information on the message requirements, see WMO 306 Manual on Codes (International Codes):

Volume I.1 Part A - Alphanumeric Codes  
Volume I.2 Part B - Binary Codes
A follow up Service Change Notice (SCN) will be issued when the above stated software update is implemented and the Autosonde RAOB products contain these components.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:

Hiram Escabi, Jr., NCE, CET
Upper Air Program Manager
NWS Program Management Branch
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-9195
hiram.escabi@noaa.gov

NWS Service Change Notices are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/

NNNN