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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 04-09
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
430 PM EST THU MAR 4 2004

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER
WIRE SERVICE /NWWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...EMERGENCY MANAGERS
WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ SUBSCRIBERS...
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS...OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
/NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERS...NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: PAUL HIRSCHBERG
CHIEF...SCIENCE PLANS BRANCH
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY /OST/

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM /GFS/ MODEL OUTPUT
STATISTICS /MOS/ GUIDANCE FOR TOTAL SKY COVER...
CEILING HEIGHT...AND VISIBILITY...EFFECTIVE MAY 18 2004

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

ATTENTION USERS OF THE MODEL OUTPUT STATISTICS /MOS/ GUIDANCE:

ON TUESDAY...MAY 18 2004...WITH THE 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL
TIME /UTC/ MODEL CYCLE...THE NWS WILL CHANGE THE CONTENT OF THE
GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM /GFS/ MODEL OUTPUT STATISTICS /MOS/
GUIDANCE. THE DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES OF TOTAL SKY COVER AND
CEILING HEIGHT WILL BE MODIFIED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FEW /FW/
AND SCATTERED /SC/ CLOUDS AND BETWEEN CEILINGS OF 1000-1900 FT
AND 2000-3000 FT. DEFINITIONS OF THE CATEGORICAL VISIBILITY
GUIDANCE WILL ALSO BE MODIFIED.

THE NEW SKY COVER CATEGORIES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

CL = CLEAR
FW = > 0 to 2 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER
SC = > 2 to 4 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER
BK = > 4 to < 8 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER
OV = 8 OCTAS OF TOTAL SKY COVER OR TOTALLY OBSCURED

THE NEW CATEGORICAL NUMBERS FOR CEILING HEIGHT WILL BE AS
FOLLOWS:

1 = < 200 FT
2 = 200 TO 400 FT
3 = 500 TO 900 FT
4 = 1000 TO 1900 FT
5 = 2000 TO 3000 FT
6 = 3100 TO 6500 FT
7 = 6600 TO 12000 FT

8 => 12000 FT OR UNLIMITED.

DEFINITIONS OF THE CATEGORICAL VISIBILITY GUIDANCE WILL BE CHANGED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 = < 1/2 MI
- 2 = 1/2 MI TO < 1 MI
- 3 = 1 TO < 2 MI
- 4 = 2 TO < 3 MI
- 5 = 3 TO 5 MI
- 6 = 6 MI
- 7 => 6 MI

TABLE 1. COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIERS FOR THE GFS-BASED MOS TEXT PRODUCTS WHICH WILL BE MODIFIED. THE AWIPS IDS ARE MAVXXX...WHERE THE FINAL XXX DENOTES THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION FOR WHICH THE GUIDANCE IS VALID.

WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID	GEOGRAPHIC REGION
FOPA20 KWNO	MAVPA0	PACIFIC ISLANDS
FOUS21 KWNO	MAVNE1	NORTHEAST CONUS
FOUS22 KWNO	MAVSE1	SOUTHEAST CONUS
FOUS23 KWNO	MAVNC1	NORTH CENTRAL CONUS
FOUS24 KWNO	MAVSC1	SOUTH CENTRAL CONUS
FOUS25 KWNO	MAVRM1	ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONUS
FOUS26 KWNO	MAVWC0	WEST COAST CONUS
FOAK37 KWNO	MAVAJK	SOUTHEAST ALASKA /JUNEAU/
FOAK38 KWNO	MAVAFC	CENTRAL ALASKA /ANCHORAGE /
FOAK39 KWNO	MAVAFG	NORTHERN ALASKA /FAIRBANKS/

A TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MODIFIED SHORT-RANGE GFS MOS FORMAT CAN BE FOUND AT THE URL LISTED BELOW /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/tpb/gfsmos2004t0012.pdf>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/tpb/gfsmos2004t0618.pdf>

LINKS TO THESE PRODUCTS...ALONG WITH DESCRIPTIONS...CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/synop/products.shtml>

NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE BUFR /GRIDDED BINARY/ MOS MESSAGES AT THIS TIME.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE CHANGES TO THE MOS GUIDANCE SYSTEM...PLEASE CONTACT:

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THIS AND OTHER NWS TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE
ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notif.htm>

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