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PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-40  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
240 PM EDT THU MAY 8 2008

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

FROM: KEVIN L. JOHNSTON  
CHIEF AVIATION SERVICES BRANCH  
NWS OFFICE OF CLIMATE WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: AVIATION WEATHER CENTER /AWC/ GRAPHICAL AIRMET  
/G-AIRMET/ BECOMES AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT:  
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 3 2008

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

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 2008 AT 1500 UTC THE NWS WILL  
BEGIN ISSUING A GRAPHICAL AIRMAN'S METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY  
/G-AIRMET/ AS AN OPERATIONAL PRODUCT.

THE G-AIRMET 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 IN BUFR-FORMAT. THE AVIATION WEATHER HAZARDS AND ELEMENTS  
DEPICTED ARE:

1. SURFACE VISIBILITY /IFR VIS/ BELOW THREE /3/ STATUTE  
MILES... INCLUDING THE WEATHER CAUSING THE VISIBILITY  
RESTRICTION.
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 TIME RESOLUTION OF NO MORE THAN THREE /3/ HOURS.

THERE ARE THREE /3/ BUFR MESSAGES IN THE G-AIRMET:

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

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/TESTBED/GFA](http://AVIATIONWEATHER.GOV/TESTBED/GFA)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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CHIEF AVIATION BRANCH  
AVIATION WEATHER CENTER  
KANSAS CITY MISSOURI  
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THIS AND OTHER NWS TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE AVAIABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM)

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