

NOUS41 KWBC 261941
PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-74
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
340 PM EDT FRI SEP 26 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/ WILL BE EXPERIMENTAL EFFECTIVE
OCTOBER 1 2008

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING HAS NO IMPACT ON NOAA WEATHER
WIRE SUBSCRIBERS

REFERENCE: TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENT NOTICE /TIN/ 08-40.

AS OF OCTOBER 1 2008 THE GRAPHICAL AIRMANS METEOROLOGICAL
ADVISORY /G-AIRMET/ WILL BE CLASSIFIED EXPERIMENTAL UNTIL THE
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ COMPLETES A REQUIRED
OPERATIONAL SUITABILITY EVALUATION AND A SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT.
THE TEXT AIRMET BULLETIN REMAINS OPERATIONAL AND AVAILABLE FOR
FLIGHT PLANNING OR BRIEFING PURPOSES. TABLE 1 SHOWS THE AIRMET
BULLETINS AVAILABLE FOR CONUS.

THE EXPERIMENTAL 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 EXPERIMENTAL 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/.

A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL 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 EXPERIMENTAL GRAPHICAL AIRMET ARE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

TABLE1: AIRMET BULLETINS FOR CONUS

WMO HEADER	AWIPS ID	DESCRIPTION	PORTION OF CONUS
WAUS41 KKCI	MKCWA1S	AIRMET SIERRA	NORTHEASTERN
WAUS41 KKCI	MKCWA1T	AIRMET TANGO	NORTHEASTERN
WAUS41 KKCI	MKCWA1Z	AIRMET ZULU	NORTHEASTERN
WAUS42 KKCI	MKCWA2S	AIRMET SIERRA	SOUTHEASTERN
WAUS42 KKCI	MKCWA2T	AIRMET TANGO	SOUTHEASTERN
WAUS42 KKCI	MKCWA2Z	AIRMET ZULU	SOUTHEASTERN
WAUS43 KKCI	MKCWA3S	AIRMET SIERRA	NORTH CENTRAL
WAUS43 KKCI	MKCWA3T	AIRMET TANGO	NORTH CENTRAL
WAUS43 KKCI	MKCWA3Z	AIRMET ZULU	NORTH CENTRAL
WAUS44 KKCI	MKCWA4S	AIRMET SIERRA	SOUTH CENTRAL

WAUS44 KPCI MKCWA4T AIRMET TANGO SOUTH CENTRAL
WAUS44 KPCI MKCWA4Z AIRMET ZULU SOUTH CENTRAL

WAUS45 KPCI MKCWA5S AIRMET SIERRA ROCKY MOUNTAIN
WAUS45 KPCI MKCWA5T AIRMET TANGO ROCKY MOUNTAIN
WAUS45 KPCI MKCWA5Z AIRMET ZULU ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WAUS46 KPCI MKCWA6S AIRMET SIERRA PACIFIC COAST
WAUS46 KPCI MKCWA6T AIRMET TANGO PACIFIC COAST
WAUS46 KPCI MKCWA6Z AIRMET ZULU PACIFIC COAST

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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NWS TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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