

NOUS41 KWBC 171645

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 08-86
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1245 PM EDT FRI OCT 17 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER USERS...PARTNERS AND NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: JASON TUELL
CHIEF...SCIENCE PLANS BRANCH
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM CHANGES: EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 9
2008

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 9 2008...BEGINNING WITH THE 1200 COORDINATED
UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/ RUN...THE FORMULATION OF THE FREEZING LEVEL
WILL BE CHANGED...SEVERAL NEW PARAMETERS WILL BE ADDED TO THE
GLOBAL FORECAST SYSTEM /GFS/ MODELING SYSTEM OUTPUT FILES AND A
FIX WILL BE MADE TO THE CALCULATION OF PRECIPITATION TYPE.

THE FORMULATION OF THE LOWEST FREEZING LEVEL HEIGHT WILL BE
CHANGED TO USE THE 2M TEMPERATURE RATHER THAN SURFACE
TEMPERATURE.

THE NEW PARAMETERS INCLUDE:

1. WILTING POINT FIELD3
2. FIELD CAPACITY FIELD

THE PRECIPITATION TYPE ALGORITHM IS BEING MODIFIED TO PREVENT
EXCESSIVE SLEET PRODUCTION WHEN THERE IS TROPOPAUSE WARMING IN
THE WINTER.

TEST DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWERCASE EXCEPT FOR WRF/:

[HTTP://WWWT.EMC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/MBB/WRFRETRO/GFS_PARA/](http://wwwt.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mbb/wrfretro/gfs_para/)

DATA DELIVERY TIMING WILL NOT BE IMPACTED BY THIS IMPLEMENTATION.
THE GFS DELIVERY TIME WILL NOT CHANGE. A SMALL INCREASE IN DATA
VOLUMES IS EXPECTED.

THESE CONTENT CHANGES WILL IMPACT ALL DISSEMINATION ROUTES
INCLUDING NOAAPORT...THE NWS PUBLIC FTP SERVER AND THE NATIONAL
CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTION /NCEP/ PUBLIC FTP SERVER.

NCEP ENCOURAGES ALL USERS TO ENSURE THEIR DECODERS ARE FLEXIBLE
AND ARE ABLE TO ADEQUATELY HANDLE CHANGES IN CONTENT

ORDER...PARAMETER FIELDS CHANGING ORDER...CHANGES IN THE SCALING FACTOR COMPONENT WITHIN THE PDS OF THE GRIB FILES AND ALSO ANY VOLUME CHANGES WHICH MAY BE FORTHCOMING. THESE ELEMENTS MAY CHANGE WITH FUTURE NCEP MODEL IMPLEMENTATIONS. NCEP WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ALERT USERS TO THESE CHANGES PRIOR TO ANY IMPLEMENTATIONS.

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE CHANGES...PLEASE CONTACT:

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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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