

NOUS41 KWBC 081255
PNSWSH

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 09-17
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
855 AM EDT FRI MAY 8 2009

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

FROM: KEVIN SCHRAB
CHIEF...OBSERVING SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: AUTOMATED SURFACE OBSERVING SYSTEM /ASOS/ CEILOMETER REPLACEMENT
BEGINNING MAY 13 2009 AT 2000 UTC

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

STARTING MAY 13 2009 AT 2000 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/ AT HILO
HAWAII...THE ASOS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WILL START DEPLOYING A
REPLACEMENT CEILOMETER SKY CONDITION OBSERVING SENSOR. THE NEW SENSOR
USES IMPROVED OPTICAL AND MECHANICAL DESIGNS THAT HELP IT SEE THROUGH
FOG...HAZE AND PRECIPITATION TO DETECT THE CLOUD BASE. DURING THESE
EVENTS...THE CLOUD BASES FROM THE NEW CEILOMETER MAY BE REPORTED AT HIGHER
LEVELS THAN THOSE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM THE OLD CEILOMETER. ALL NWS
AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION /FAA/ ASOS LOCATIONS WILL TRANSITION
TO THE NEW CEILOMETER DATA UNTIL NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF THIS SENSOR IS
COMPLETE.

A COMPARISON STUDY WAS CONDUCTED TO EVALUATE ANY SENSOR PERFORMANCE
CHANGES THAT MIGHT OCCUR DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CEILOMETER.
THE CT12K AND CL31 CEILOMETER METEOROLOGICAL COMPARISON EVALUATION PLAN
AND THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER
CASE/:

WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OPS2/OPS24/DOCUMENTS/ASOS_CEILOMETER.HTM

THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE FORMAT USED TO REPORT THE SKY CONDITION
INFORMATION IN ANY OF THE ASOS PRODUCTS OR MESSAGES. CLOUD
LAYERS...HEIGHT AND SKY COVERAGE WILL CONTINUE TO BE REPORTED FROM THE
SURFACE OF THE EARTH TO AN UPPER LEVEL OF 12000 FEET ABOVE GROUND LEVEL.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

LAURA A. COOK
SURFACE OBSERVATIONS PROGRAM MANAGER
301-713-1792 X 126
LAURA.COOK@NOAA.GOV

OR

JOHN MONTE
ASOS PLANNED PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER
301-713-1975 X 160
JOHN.MONTE@NOAA.GOV

OR

DAVID MANNARANO
OFFICE OF OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS
301-713-2093 X 103
DAVID.MANNARANO@NOAA.GOV

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

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

\$\$
NNNN