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Service Change Notice 10-53
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1103 AM Wed EDT Oct 20 2010

To: Subscribers:
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-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Cynthia Abelman
Chief, Aviation Services Branch

Subject: Format Change for the Volcanic Ash SIGMET
Effective November 18, 2010

The World Area Forecast System (WAFS) will be adding wind, temperature and relative humidity in Gridded Binary data or GRIB2 to the International Satellite Communication System (ISCS) in response to updated requirements from the International Civil Aviation Organization. The GRIB2 format was adopted by the World Meteorological Organization to improve data efficiency and allow for the growth of new parameters within data products. The additional GRIB2 products will contain a significant increase in data files due to the addition of flight levels and the doubling of valid time steps from 6 to 3 hour intervals.

The current GRIB1 formatted data will remain on the ISCS broadcast along with the GRIB2 products through the remainder of the ISCS contract, which expires at the end of June 2012.

The GRIB2 products will be added to the ISCS broadcast November 11, 2010, and will sequentially follow the broadcast of the GRIB1 products. The GRIB2 products will employ the JPEG 2000 compression algorithms to minimize the growth in size of the individual bulletins. The implementation of the GRIB2 will also require modifications to the WAFS workstation for ingesting storage and display of GRIB2 products. The GRIB2 products will be uplinked for broadcast over ISCS within 1 hour of receipt.

If you have any questions:

Michael Graf
National Weather Service
SSMC-2 Station 13314
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring Md. 20910
301-713-1726 X 117

Michael.graf@noaa.gov

National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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