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PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 11-56  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
1115 AM EST Wed Dec 21 2011

TO: National Weather Service Offices (NWS)  
Federal Aviation Administration Customers (FAA)  
Family of Service Subscribers (FOS)  
Other Customers of NWS Aviation Forecasts

FROM: Cyndie Abelman  
Chief, Aviation Services Branch

SUBJECT: SIGMET Format Test to be conducted on  
January 24, 2012

The NWS will test a future change to the Significant Meteorological advisory (SIGMET) format on January 24, 2012, at 1800 UTC. At the beginning of the second line of the SIGMET, the four letter identifier for the Flight Information Region (FIR) will be added before the full name of the FIR.

For example, "OAKLAND OCEANIC FIR" will become "KZAK OAKLAND OCEANIC FIR".

Current US SIGMET below

KZAK SIGMET NOVEMBER 1 VALID 031800/031815 PHFO-  
OAKLAND OCEANIC FIR ETC

Proposed change, note the beginning of the second line.

KZAK SIGMET NOVEMBER 1 VALID 031800/031815 PHFO-  
KZAK OAKLAND OCEANIC FIR ETC

If this test is successful, NWS will coordinate with the FAA for a future changeover date to the new format.

Each of the three US Meteorological Watch Offices (MWOs) will issued the same test SIGMET and the cancellation SIGMET on Month DD, YYYY, beginning at 1800 UTC. See the example test messages below.

WSPA01 PHFO 031800  
SIGPAN

KZAK SIGMET NOVEMBER 1 VALID 031800/031815 PHFO-  
KZAK OAKLAND OCEANIC FIR TEST TEST TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET.

Followed by the Cancelation SIGMET:

WSPA01 PHFO 031810  
SIGPAN

KZAK SIGMET NOVEMBER 2 VALID 031810/031815 PHFO-  
KZAK OAKLAND OCEANIC FIR CNL SIGMET NOVEMBER 1 VALID  
031800/031815. TEST TEST TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET.

This change is necessary to comply with the SIGMET format specified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Annex 3, Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation. The main purpose of this test is to ensure that automated computer systems can still ingest the updated SIGMET format.

The three U. S. Meteorological Watch Offices (Aviation Weather Center, Alaska Aviation Weather Unit, and Weather Forecast Office Honolulu) will conduct the test using the following SIGMET bulletins:

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| AWIPS Identifier | WMO Heading |
| SIGP0#           | WSPN## KPCI |
| SIGAK#           | WSAK## PAWU |
| SIGPA#           | WSPA## PHFO |

If there are active SIGMETs during the proposed date and time, the test will still occur using a separate series identifier.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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