

Department of Commerce ▪ National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration ▪ National Weather Service

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PACIFIC REGION SUPPLEMENT 12-2003

APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-811

December 1, 2011

Operations and Services

Aviation Weather Services, NWSPD 10-8

Enroute Forecasts and Advisories, NWSI 10-811

EXCEPTION TO MINIMUM AREAL MOUNTAIN OBSCURATION RULE FOR AIRMETS

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement supersedes Pacific Region Supplement 12-2003, recertified on March 27, 2006.

The following changes were made in this issuance:

1. Updated the reference to 10-811 in Section 2.

<signed>

November 16, 2011

R.J. LaDouce

Date

Director, Pacific Region

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1. Purpose. The purpose of this Regional Supplement is to establish an exception to the NWS policy requiring a minimum area for mountain obscuration AIRMETS.

2. Description. Section 7.1 of NWSI 10-811 describes meteorological conditions contained in AIRMET advisories, including extensive mountain obscuration. It states that in order to issue an AIRMET, this condition, and others covered by an AIRMET, must affect an area of at least 3,000 square miles. Due to the small size of individual islands in the Pacific Region, it is possible for mountain obscuration conditions to present a significant hazard to aircraft operations even if they affect areas less than this stated minimum.

3. Policy. AIRMET bulletins will be issued for mountain obscuration whenever, in the judgment of the aviation forecaster, the obscuration poses a significant aviation hazard. An AIRMET bulletin will be issued whether or not the condition affects an area of at least 3,000 square miles.