

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-943

DECEMBER 17, 2012

Operations and Services

Hydrologic Services Program, NWSPD 10-9

REPORTING FORMATS FOR REAL-TIME DATA

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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Type of Issuance: Routine.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWS Instruction 10-943, "Reporting Formats for Real-Time Data," dated January 25, 2011. The following revisions were made to this instruction:

- 1) Changes multiple references to the NWS Manual 10-944, Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) Code Manual to instead reference an on-line version of the manual which is posted on the Hydrologic Services Division web page. Coincident with this change, NWS Manual 10-944 will be rescinded, with the on-line version serving as the official source of information on the SHEF format.
- 2) Clarifies the support responsibility to recognize that the decoding software is supported via the AWIPS Program, which may involve support from the Office of Hydrologic Development. Clarifies the responsibility for training and management of SHEF standards to be provided by the Hydrologic Services Division.

(Signed)

December 3, 2012

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Date

Reporting Formats for Real-Time Data

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1. Introduction. This directive establishes a standard format for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service (NWS) offices to use in the exchange of observed and forecast point data used in hydrologic operations.

2. Standard Format. Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) will be the standard format used for exchanging observed and forecast point data between NWS offices for all hydrologic operations. The three general formats and supporting parameter codes currently available for encoding SHEF data messages are described in the NWS *Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) Manual*. This manual is posted on-line on a website managed by the Hydrologic Support Branch within the Hydrologic Services Division of the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS).

This instruction does not apply to raw data reported by data collection platforms (DCP) or other automated observing sensors. It also does not apply to gridded data sets or graphics produced or used by various software and remote sensing systems.

3. Support Responsibilities. The NWS Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Program is responsible for maintaining the AWIPS baseline version of the SHEF decoder software and software documentation. The Office of Hydrologic Development provides software development support to the AWIPS Program, which may include support of the SHEF software and documentation.

Field offices may request changes and additions in SHEF coding and associated software through the branch or division at regional headquarters managing the regional hydrology program, which will then forward the requirements to the Hydrologic Support Branch in the OCWWS' Hydrologic Services Division. Training and management of the SHEF standards will be the role of the Hydrologic Services Division.

Instructions and rules for encoding data in SHEF are provided in the NWS SHEF Manual.