

General Explanation of Implementation Schedule

Updated: May 3, 2007

Introduction. Several key National Weather Service (NWS) hydrologic products have undergone significant changes during 2006 and 2007. These changes can be summarized as implementation of a new segmented format and Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) in both point-specific and areal products. Significant progress has been made, and the plan is to have VTEC implemented in all event-based hydrologic products by the end of 2007. This document provides the latest available plan for full implementation of VTEC in hydrologic products during 2007.

Product Segmentation -

Flood Warnings For Forecast Points

Areal Flood Warnings

Areal Flood Advisories

The NWS has 122 weather forecast offices (WFO). Since the first half of 2006, all WFOs have been issuing areal flood warnings, areal flood advisories, and flood warnings for forecast points in a segmented format. Note: flash flood statements (the follow-up product for flash flood warnings) have been segmented since December, 2004.

VTEC Implementation -

Flood Warnings for Forecast Points

Flood Watches for Forecast Points

Flood Advisories for Forecast Points

Currently, 42 of the 122 WFOs are issuing flood warnings, watches, and advisories for forecast points with experimental VTEC (i.e., Product Class code "X"). WFOs began including VTEC in these products April 2006 as part of a risk reduction activity as described in [Service Change Notice 06-10](#), but they continue to do so even though the risk reduction activity ended in November, 2006.

National Implementation. Current plans call for all 122 WFOs to be issuing flood warnings, watches, and advisories for forecast points with experimental VTEC by June 19, 2007 (two weeks later than previously announced). Operational implementation of VTEC is scheduled for July 17, 2007. The only change occurring on July 17 will be a switch from using the "X" code to the "O" code at the start of the first VTEC string. Note: areal flood watches currently already have operational VTEC.

VTEC Implementation -

Flash Flood Products

Areal Flood Warnings

Areal Advisories

Risk Reduction. Starting April 2, 2007, a few WFOs began providing experimental VTEC (Product Class code "X") in their areal flood products – i.e., flash flood products (flash flood warnings and statements), areal flood warnings (and follow-up statements), and areal advisories -

as part of a risk reduction activity. By early May, 23 WFOs (precise number now provided) will be participating in this risk reduction activity. These 23 WFOs are listed in the “Schedule for Implementation of VTEC in Areal Flood Products” table, which is linked to from the Hydrologic VTEC web page.

Operational Test and Evaluation. From May 16 to July 6, 2007 (more precise dates than previously announced), certain risk reduction WFOs will begin evaluating their experimental VTEC as part of an official operational test and evaluation (OT&E). This OT&E will be transparent to external users since it involves WFOs that will already be providing VTEC as part of the risk reduction activity.

National Implementation. Assuming a successful OT&E in May-July 2007, WFOs participating in the risk reduction activity will continue including experimental VTEC in their areal flood products after the risk reduction activity is over. Also assuming a successful OT&E, all remaining WFOs will be providing areal flood products with the “X” product class code by August 30, 2007 (two weeks earlier than previously announced). VTEC will become operational in areal flood products on September 25, 2007 (three weeks earlier than previously announced). In other words, all 122 WFOs will be including VTEC in their areal flood products by August 30, 2007 and the only change occurring on the September 25, 2007 operational date will be a switch from using the “X” to the “O” code.