

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-807
OCTOBER 5, 2017***

Operations and Services

Aviation Weather Services, NWSPD 10-8

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

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OPR: W/AFS24 (M. Graf)

Certified by: W/AFS24 (W. Bauman)

Type of Issuance: Routine

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes *NWSI 10-807, "International Service Agreements," dated May 19, 2009*. Changes were made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization effective on April 1, 2015. No content changes were made.

Signed _____

Andrew D. Stern

Director

Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office

9/21/2017 _____

Date

International Service Agreements

<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Purpose.....	2
2. Background.....	2
3. Definition of Unique Terms.....	3
4. General.....	3
5. Correspondence with Foreign Meteorological Services.....	4
6. Services Provided.....	4
6.1 Preflight Planning Information and Flight Documentation.....	5
6.1.1 Meteorological Information Format.....	6
7. Retention of Weather Documentation Materials.....	6
8. Requests for Service.....	6

1. **Purpose.** This instruction details procedures for National Weather Service (NWS) Regional Headquarters (RH), National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) offices, and Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in meeting valid international aviation Meteorological (MET) requirements.

2. **Background.** The United States, as a Contracting State in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has agreed to provide international meteorological services in support of international air navigation, in accordance with the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) of Annex 3 to the provisions of Article 37 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago 1944). The provision of international meteorological services includes the United States, U.S. territories and possessions (Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), Compact of Free Association (CFA) countries (Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of the Marshall Islands), and Oceanic Flight Information Regions.

Further, ICAO requires each Contracting State to designate a MET Authority. In the United States, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the designated MET Authority, and the FAA in turn designated the NWS as the provider of international MET services. The NWS provides these services in accordance with Annex 3 and the appropriate Regional Air Navigation (RAN) agreements.

Key components involved in the provision of international meteorological services in the United States are:

- a. The Washington World Area Forecast Center (WAFC), consisting of two NCEP centers (NCEP Central Operations (NCO) in College Park, Maryland, and Aviation Weather Center (AWC) in Kansas City, Missouri), and the Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) in College Park, Maryland;

- b. the Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) at the AWC;
 - c. the MWO at the Alaska Aviation Weather Unit (AAWU) in Anchorage, Alaska;
 - d. the MWO at the WFO in Honolulu, Hawaii;
 - e. the Anchorage Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) at the AAWU;
 - f. the Washington VAAC-containing elements of the NCO and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) in College Park, Maryland;
 - g. the Tropical Cyclone Advisory Center (TCAC) at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) located in Miami, Florida;
 - h. the TCAC at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center located at the WFO in Honolulu, Hawaii; and
 - i. the WFOs which provide Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs).
3. Definition of Unique Terms. The following terms have unique definitions for international aviation service:
- a. Requirement: a valid need, not necessarily something the United States is required to provide. The U.S. Meteorological Authority determines the services to be provided. Paragraph 2.1.3 of Annex 3 is applicable.
 - b. Provide: used solely in connection with the provision of service, including copies of appropriate forecasts (i.e., flight documentation).
 - c. Issue: used solely in connection with cases where the obligation specifically extends to sending out the information to a user.
 - d. Make available: used solely in connection with cases where the obligation ends with making the information accessible to a user.
 - e. Supply: used solely in connection with cases where either c. or d., above, applies.
 - f. Compact of Free Association countries: the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands, located in the northwest Pacific Ocean.
4. General. The following criteria determine whether flights receive international

documentation:

- a. Flights between the Conterminous U.S. (CONUS) and Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, U.S. territories and possessions, or CFA countries (even though formally classified as domestic, these flights occur outside of CONUS).
- b. Flights from the CONUS to outside the United States, including those that are scheduled to make an intermediate stop in Canada before continuing to a destination outside the United States.

5. Correspondence with Foreign MET Services. Correspondence regarding service to international aviation will be conducted according to the following precepts:

- a. The NOAA Administrator normally corresponds with directors of foreign MET services. However, the NWS Director has delegated authority to correspond directly with foreign MET service directors on operational matters covered by existing policy.
 - (1) Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) corresponds with World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
 - (2) Chief of Aviation and Space Weather Services corresponds with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- b. In other cases dealing with operational matters covered by existing policy, any of the following individuals or their designees may contact others having comparable functions and status in foreign MET services:
 - (1) The Director, NCEP
 - (2) The Director, NHC
 - (3) The Director, AWC
 - (4) The Director, Pacific Region
 - (5) The Director, Alaska Region
 - (6) The Meteorologists in Charge (MIC) at the AAWU and WFO Honolulu.

The Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office (AFSO) should be informed, as soon as possible, about any such correspondence. AFSO will coordinate relevant issues with the FAA.

6. Services Provided. The recommended procedures for providing meteorological services to international air navigation are contained in (but not limited to) five ICAO documents.

- a. Annex 3, Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, prescribes basic meteorological service obligations of ICAO Contracting States to support international air navigation, and presents detailed procedures and guidance desirable for uniform fulfillment of those basic obligations;
- b. Regional Supplementary Procedures, ICAO Doc. 7030, details different operating conditions encountered throughout the world;
- c. RAN agreements which include regional SARPS. The RAN only documents those SARPS which are allowed by Annex 3 and are unique to that region;
- d. Location Indicators, ICAO Doc. 7910, contain indicators for geographical locations throughout the world;
- e. PANS-ICAO Abbreviations and Codes, Doc. 8400 contain abbreviations and codes approved for worldwide use in international aeronautical telecommunication service and aeronautical documents.

6.1 Preflight Planning Information and Flight Documentation. As a Contracting State of ICAO, the United States agreed to provide flight documentation services to the international aviation community. The AWC, within the framework of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS), provides this documentation to airlines at airports certified for international traffic within the United States, its territories and possessions, and CFA countries. International flight folder program (IFFP) information is available via the Internet at: <http://aviationweather.gov/iffdp/>

Flight folder documentation may consist of some or all of the following:

- a. current and forecast surface and upper-level winds, surface and upper-level air temperatures and humidity;
- b. significant enroute weather;
- c. Meteorological Terminal Aviation Routine Weather Reports (METAR) and Special Reports (SPECIs) are formats for reporting weather information for departure, enroute alternates, and destination aerodromes;
- d. Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) for departure, enroute alternates, and destination aerodromes;
- e. Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET) and special air-reports along the route of flight; and
- f. Airmen's Meteorological Information (AIRMET) as required by air navigation

agreement.

For flights of two (2) hours duration or less, flight folder information may be limited to c, d, e and f.

6.1.1 Meteorological Information Format. The MET, in consultation with the operator, will determine the type and format of meteorological information to be provided, and the methods and means of supplying that information. Usually, meteorological information will be supplied by one or more of the following methods:

- a. charts;
- b. tabular forms; and
- c. abbreviated plain-language text.

7. Retention of Weather Documentation Materials. NOAA will retain information provided to airlines and dispatch companies for five (5) years.

8. Requests for Service. Requests for service will be sent to the AWC. A help desk is manned five days/week 8am-4pm CST, and may be reached by calling the toll free number 1-877-280-2811.