

NOUS41 KWBC 111505
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-87
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring, MD
1105 AM EDT Tue Jul 11 2017

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Offices
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS partners and employees

From: William Bauman
 Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Operational Implementation of Aviation Surface Forecast
 and Aviation Cloud Forecast Graphics Effective
 July 10, 2017

Effective July 10, 2017, the Experimental Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast graphics produced by the NWS Aviation Weather Center (AWC) will transition to operational status.

The Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast graphics are snapshot images derived from a subset of the aviation weather forecasts. The products are valid for the continental United States (CONUS) and coastal waters used within the Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA) interactive web-based display which became operational April 13, 2017. See Service Change Notice 17-31:
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/scn17-31awc_exp_graphics.htm

The static images are provided every 3 hours for one CONUS projection and nine regional projections with 3-hourly forecasts of Surface (predominant weather, visibility, wind) and cloud coverage and layer (bases and tops) information out to 18 hours. Details of the forecast graphics can be found in the Product Description Document (PDD):
http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD_AviationForecastGraphics_062217.pdf

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), pursuant to Title 49 United States Code Section 44720, established requirements for this weather information and service necessary for the safe and efficient conduct of operations in the National Airspace System.

These graphics provide a low-bandwidth alternative to the GFA interactive web-based display and are provided through NOAAPORT/SBN and via the AWC Web Page. The static images are intended for FAA Flight Service Station (FSS) providers, commercial and General Aviation pilots, operators, briefers and dispatchers with limited Internet access.

These Portable Network Graphics (PNG) images will be available over NOAA/PORT/Satellite Broadcast Network. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) header information is as follows:

T1T2A1A2ii CCCC

- CCCC is KFCI (Aviation Weather Center)
- T1 = Q (Regional Static Graphic)
- T2 specifies the forecast graphic as follows:
 - = I for the Aviation Clouds Forecast Graphic
 - = Z for the Aviation Surface Forecast Graphic
- A1 = T (Northern Hemisphere)
- A2 specifies the forecast time as follows:
 - = B for the 3 hour forecast
 - = C for the 6 hour forecast
 - = D for the 9 hour forecast
 - = E for the 12 hour forecast
 - = F for the 15 hour forecast
 - = G for the 18 hour forecast
- When T2 = I, ii specifies the regional domain of the Aviation Clouds Forecast Graphic as follows:
 - = 00 for Continental United States
 - = 01 for Northeastern United States
 - = 02 for Eastern United States
 - = 03 for Southeastern United States
 - = 04 for North Central United States
 - = 05 for Central United States
 - = 06 for South Central United States
 - = 07 for Northwestern United States
 - = 08 for Western United States
 - = 09 for Southwestern United States
- When T2 = Z, ii specifies the regional domain of the Aviation Surface Forecast Graphic as follows:
 - = 90 for Continental United States
 - = 91 for Northeastern United States
 - = 92 for Eastern United States
 - = 93 for Southeastern United States
 - = 94 for North Central United States
 - = 95 for Central United States
 - = 96 for South Central United States
 - = 97 for Northwestern United States
 - = 98 for Western United States
 - = 99 for Southwestern United States

Additionally, the Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Cloud Forecast Graphics can be found at:
<https://www.AviationWeather.gov/gfa/plot>

Based on comments received by FAA and other NWS users, NWS plans to discontinue production of CONUS FAs. This change will occur after a 90-day parallel operations transition period starting when the GFA interactive web-based display and the Aviation Surface Forecast and Aviation Clouds Forecast graphics are implemented operationally. Formal public notification will be provided in advance of the action to discontinue the CONUS FAs.

The effective date of this change is sooner than specified by NWS policy (NWS Instruction 10-1805). The reduction of the normal advance lead time is needed to support the 90-day parallel operations transition period for FAA Flight Service providers.

For technical questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Debra Blondin
Domestic Operations Branch Chief
Aviation Weather Center
Kansas City, MO 64153
816-584-7207

Debra.Blondin@noaa.gov

For policy questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Kevin Stone
Meteorologist
National Weather Service Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-9363

Kevin.Stone@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

NNNN