

COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION
Washington, 2 – 29 April 1953
WMO – No. 16.RP.7

GENERAL SUMMARY

7.1 Date of introduction of new code forms and codes

Important discussions took place on the date of introduction of new code forms and codes (SYNOP, TEMP, PILOT and aeronautical code forms and code tables). It was felt that in view of the interlocking of various code tables (particularly those for hh and VV), all above mentioned new code forms should be introduced at one and the same date. A target of January 1, 1956 was recommended to the plenary by Committee A. The president of CAeM was, however, of the opinion that this was too late, in view of the fact that the aviation world had been waiting for revised code forms for many years already. Others were of the opinion that the introduction of new code forms should be world-wide without exception and it was feared that new instructions could not reach isolated stations before January 1, 1956. It was also stressed that the Regional Associations should have ample time to discuss the SYNOP code form. When an amendment to change January 1, 1956 into January 1, 1955 was carried (9-7), a roll-call vote on the adoption of the recommendation in principle was held with the result 9 for, 7 against and 1 abstentions. It should be noted that amongst the protagonists for an early date were 6 European countries. When the final version of Recommendation 11 was voted upon there no roll-call vote and the result was 11 for and 4 against (abstentions not counted). RECCO and POMAR may be considered apart from the main set of codes and also the SFERIC (USA plans to introduce the SFERIC form January 1, 1954). Furthermore attention should be drawn to the fact that the introduction of new symbols to be plotted on weather maps is also independent of the introduction of the basic code form.

Rec. 11 (CSM-I) – DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW FORMS OF MESSAGE

THE COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY,

CONSIDERING,

- (1) That there is an urgent aeronautical requirement for the introduction of the new forecast codes and instructions at the earliest possible time;
- (2) That the observing and forecast codes are so closely linked together that, in order to cause the least disruption throughout the meteorological world, all the new codes and specifications should be introduced at the same time;
- (3) That time will be required to prepare and distribute instructions, to train observers, and to complete other arrangements;

RECOMMENDS,

- (1) That the new POMAR code should be introduced on a date to be co-ordinated between the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Meteorological Organization;
- (2) That any Member desiring to introduce the new RECCO code experimentally before the date of introduction of the basic codes give adequate advance notice to the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization so that Members concerned may be informed, and provide decode material for the use of all Services receiving the reports;
- (3) That in view of the difficulties many Services will experience in introducing the new code forms and code specifications (except for POMAR and RECCO), it seems likely that January 1, 1955 (Standard time of observation 00.00 GMT) will be the earliest date practicable.