

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION
Washington, 6-17 November 1978
WMO – No. 521

GENERAL SUMMARY

8. CODES (INCLUDING THE REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CODES)
(Agenda item 8)

8.14 Common surface synoptic code

8.14.1 The Commission considered a proposal for the development of a common code for surface observation which could better meet the data needs of WMO programmes and Members as well as be more suitable for manual and automatic data processing. The Commission based its deliberations on the substantial work carried out within CBS and its working groups since 1962. It also took into consideration the trials and tests conducted by Members in 1973.

8.14.2 The Commission noted the increased need for the early introduction of a common code suited to various types of surface station, manned and automatic, on land and at sea, and developed a common code for surface synoptic observations. Recommendation 14 (CBS-VII) was adopted.

8.14.3 The Commission noted a proposal made by the U.S.S.R. for the coding of sea-ice data, given in the appendix to CBS-VII/Doc. 22. It felt that this proposal needed further study. However, in view of the fact that a change in reporting of sea-ice data requires co-ordination with CMM, it invited its president to carry out necessary consultations with the president of CMM concerning the given proposal with the view to including it in the codes FM 12-VII and FM 13-VII.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SESSION

Rec. 14 (CBS-VII) – COMMON CODE FOR REPORTING SURFACE OBSERVATIONS FROM DIFFERENT TYPES OF SURFACE STATION

THE COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS,

NOTING:

- (1) Recommendation 44 (73-CBS) – Date of introduction of new code forms for synoptic surface observations, approved by Resolution 3 (EC-XXV),
- (2) Section 8.2 of the general summary of the sixth session of CBS (Belgrade, March/April 1974),

CONSIDERING:

- (1) That the present code forms available for reporting of synoptic surface observations no longer meet the data requirements of the various WMO programmes,
- (2) That the present SYNOP and SHIP codes cannot accommodate the resolution of data, and other modifications resulting from changes in requirements, in an efficient way unless the structure of the existing codes is entirely changed,
- (3) That new automatic and manual data-processing centres require, for greater efficiency and economy, the utilization of a non-ambiguous common code form which could be used by different types of surface station (manned and automatic stations on land and at sea),
- (4) That a code form similar to the proposed common code form has already been successfully tested in the past,

RECOMMENDS:

- (1) That codes FM 12-VII SYNOP and FM 13-VII SHIP for reporting surface observations from different types of surface station, given in the annex* to this recommendation, be introduced for international use as from 1 January 1981;
- (2) That these codes be included in Volume I of the Manual on Codes;
- (3) That codes FM 11-V SYNOP, FM 14-V SYNOP, FM 21-V SHIP, FM 22-V SHIP, FM 23-V SHRED and FM 24-V SHIP be deleted from Volume I of the Manual on Codes as from 1 January 1981;

INVITES the presidents of regional associations to take urgent steps to adopt the regional coding procedures taking into account the regional sections in FM 12-VII SYNOP, FM 13-VII SHIP;

AUTHORIZES the president of CBS to approve editorial amendments in the regulations for these codes, as necessary.

Annex to Recommendation 14 (CBS-VII)

COMMON CODE (FM 12-VII AND FM 13-VII) FOR REPORTING SURFACE OBSERVATIONS FROM DIFFERENT TYPES OF SURFACE STATION

This annex is available in another file.