

COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY  
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION  
New-Delhi, 21 January – 15 February 1958  
WMO – No. 74.RP.30

GENERAL SUMMARY

8.6

Simplified code form for ships in areas where observations are sparse (Agenda item 8.6)

The commission took note of the special problems of many Members to encourage ships in remote areas to send reports, particularly when they were not calling regularly at a port served by a port meteorological officer. The meeting was informed that the introduction of SHIGY had met with considerable success. It was aware of the remark made by the chairman of the CMM working group on this problem that the use of w for present weather made it difficult to include SHIGY reports in series of punched cards with other reports in forms FM 21.A, 22.A, 23.A and it therefore was in favour of a code form containing ww. Continuity of the collaboration of these ships following IGY was most important and an extension of the life of SHIGY for one year following the end of IGY was therefore recommended. The commission developed in Rec. 1 (CSM-II) a new code form SHRED. With the use of SHRED, the present code form FM 23.A is unnecessary and it can be deleted without penalty.

Rec. 1 (CSM-II) – SIMPLIFIED CODE FORMS FOR SHIPS IN AREAS WHERE OBSERVATIONS ARE SPARSE

THE COMMISSION FOR SYNOPTIC METEOROLOGY,

NOTING the actions by the Commission for Maritime Meteorology (Recommendation 14 (CMM-II)), the president of the Commission for Synoptic Meteorology, the president of the World Meteorological Organization and the ninth session of the Executive Committee in establishing the special SHIGY code form;

CONSIDERING,

- (1) That this code form has led to an increase in the number of ship reports from certain areas;
- (2) That, if this code form could not be used after the International Geophysical Year, the number of ship reports from sparse areas would be adversely affected;
- (3) That there is a continuing need in some areas for a reduced type of a ship report, based on observations made with unchecked instruments, which need cannot be met by code forms FM 21.A, FM 22.A or 23.A;
- (4) That the SHIGY code form presents a real difficulty to the climatologist, when the elements reported in this form are to be entered in punched cards;

RECOMMENDS:

- (1) That code form FM 24 be continued for a period of one year after the end of the International Geophysical Year to permit adequate time for the change-over of the ships now reporting in FM 24 to the new FM 23.B;
- (2) That the code form FM 23.A be replaced by a new code form FM 23.B :  
SHRED YQL<sub>a</sub>L<sub>a</sub>L<sub>a</sub> L<sub>o</sub>L<sub>o</sub>L<sub>o</sub>GG Nddff VVwwW  
PPxTT (D<sub>s</sub>v<sub>s</sub>xxx) ICE followed by plain language or by (c<sub>2</sub>Kd<sub>i</sub>re)

- (3) That the following notes be added to this code form :
- (1) The code name SHRED is used as a prefix to the report, indicating that the report is a reduced type of ship report. The code name SHRED should always be added to the report;
  - (2) Code form FM 23.B is considered suitable for any ship, other than a selected ship, a ship at an ocean weather station or a supplementary ship, which is not supplied with tested instruments and may be requested to report in areas where shipping is relatively sparse, or on request and especially when storm conditions threaten or prevail. These ships can report in plain language, if the use of code is impracticable. They are encouraged to make their reports at the main standard times of observation, but reports at other hours, more convenient to themselves, are acceptable, the actual time of observation being reported in the report to the nearest hour GMT;
  - (3) See Note (3) under SHIP FM 21.A;
  - (4) The x in the group PPxTT signifies that the information in the tenths of mb is not available owing to lack of accuracy or closeness of scale of the ship's barometer;
  - (5) If the group PPxTT is not reported 30 is added to the time of observation in whole hours GMT (example : actual time of observation 0550 GMT; GG = 06 + 30 = 36);
  - (6) Present Note (4) of FM 23.A;
  - (7) Present Note (5) of FM 23.A;
- (4) That port meteorological officers, whenever they have an opportunity to visit ships reporting in code form FM 23.B, check the ship's instruments, give supplementary information and encourage ships' officers to report in FM 22.A.