

RECOMMENDATION 8 (JCOMM-I)

MODIFICATIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME METEOROLOGICAL TAPE (IMMT) FORMAT

THE JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY,

NOTING:

- (1) The *Manual on Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO-No. 558) Volume I, Appendix I.13,
- (2) The final report of the eighth session of the JCOMM Subgroup on Marine Climatology (JCOMM Meeting Report No. 2, Asheville, April 2000),
- (3) The final report of the second meeting on the VOSCLIM Project (JCOMM Meeting Report No. 7, Asheville, November 2000),

RECOGNIZING:

- (1) That it was essential for the VOSCLIM Project that additional observational and metadata should be included with each observational report submitted in IMMT to the Global Collecting Centres and subsequently to the Data Assembly Centre,
- (2) That these data were already being collected and submitted within the context of this project,

CONSIDERING:

- (1) That these additional data and metadata would also be of general value to the MCSS, to global climate studies and to marine climate data applications,

- (2) That it would simplify the work of Contributing Members, the Global Collecting Centres and Responsible Members alike if the revised IMMT format with the additional entries (IMMT-2) were to completely replace the existing IMMT-1 format,

RECOMMENDS:

- (1) That the amendments to the *Manual on Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO-No. 558) and the *Guide to Marine Meteorological Services* (WMO-No. 471), as detailed in the annex to this recommendation be approved;
- (2) That the new version (IMMT-2) of the format be implemented generally for all data collected as from 1 January 2003;

REQUESTS the Expert Team on Marine Climatology to continue to review the implementation and value of the revised format, to provide technical assistance to the WMO Members concerned, as required, and to propose further amendments to the format as necessary;

REQUESTS the Secretary-General of WMO to provide appropriate technical advisory assistance to WMO Members concerned, as required, in the implementation of the revised format.

ANNEX TO RECOMMENDATION 8 (JCOMM-I)

LAYOUT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME METEOROLOGICAL TAPE (IMMT)
[VERSION IMMT-2]

Additional requirements for the VOSCLIM Project

Element number	Character number	Code	Element	Coding procedure
65	111		IMMT version	0 = IMMT version just prior to version number being included 1 = IMMT-1 (previous version) 2 = IMMT-2 (this version) 3 = IMMT-3 (next version), etc.
86	132	Q21	Minimum quality control (MQC) standards version identification	1 = MQC-I (Original version) 2 = MQC-II (Version 2, May 1996) 3 = MQC-III (Version 3, May 2000) 4 = MQC-IV (Version 4, June 2001)
87	133-135	HDG	Ship's heading; the direction to which the bow is pointing, referenced to true North	(000-360); e.g. 360 = North 000 = No movement 090 = East
88	136-138	COG	Ship's ground course; the direction the vessel actually moves over the fixed Earth and referenced to true North	(000-360); e.g. 360 = North 000 = No movement 090 = East
89	139-140	SOG	Ship's ground speed; the speed the vessel actually moves over the fixed Earth	(00-99); Round to nearest whole knot
90	141-142	SLL	Maximum height in metres of deck cargo above summer maximum load line	(00-99); Report to nearest whole metre

<i>Element number</i>	<i>Character number</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Element</i>	<i>Coding procedure</i>
91	143-145	s_l hh	Departure of reference level (summer maximum load line) from actual sea level. Consider the difference positive when the summer maximum load line is above the level of the sea and negative if below the water line	Position 143 (s_l) sign position; 0 = positive or zero, 1 = negative Positions 144-145 (hh); (00-99) is the difference to the nearest whole metre between the summer maximum load line and the sea level
92	146-148	RWD	Relative wind direction in degrees off the bow	Relative wind direction; e.g. 000 = no apparent relative wind speed (calm conditions on deck). Reported direction for relative wind = 001-360 degrees in a clockwise direction off the bow of the ship. When directly on the bow, RWD = 360
93	149-151	RWS	Relative wind speed reported in units indicated by i_w (knots or $m s^{-1}$)	Reported in either whole knots or whole metres per second (e.g. 010 knots or 005 $m s^{-1}$). Units established by i_w as indicated in character number 27

NOTES:

- (1) Since the relative wind speed can be greater than the true wind speed, e.g., i_w indicates knots and $ff = 98$, the relative wind speed may be 101 knots; therefore, three positions must be allocated since i_w cannot be adjusted and the relative wind speed converted to metres per second as is done in element 15.
- (2) Most of the codes (groups of letters) in the IMMT format with the exception of those added for the VOSCLIM Project are defined in the *Manual on Codes* (WMO-No. 306) as they basically mirror the code groups used in the FM 13-X SHIP code. Because CBS did not agree to expand the FM 13-X SHIP code for the VOSCLIM Project, the additional observed elements (selected codes) will not appear in the *WMO Manual on Codes*. Therefore an effort was made to select unique codes (groups of letters) not defined in the *WMO Manual on Codes* for the elements added to the IMMT-2 format version modified for the VOSCLIM Project. This was deliberately done to try and prevent a difference in meaning for a given code group (identical symbolic letters) in the *WMO Manual on Codes* versus that in IMMT.