

VOS Classes as approved at JCOMM-III, Marrakech, November 2009

Selected ships

A mobile ship station equipped with sufficient certified meteorological instruments for making observations, transmits regular weather reports and enters the observations in a meteorological logbook. A Selected ship should have at least a barometer, a thermometer to measure SST, a psychrometer (for air temperature and humidity), a barograph and possibly an anemometer.

Selected AWS ships

A mobile ship station equipped with an Automatic Weather Station (AWS) system comprising certified meteorological instruments to measure at least air pressure, pressure change, temperature and humidity. Optional sensors would include wind speed and direction and sea temperature measurement. The AWS may or may not have the facility for manual input of the visual elements, and transmit reports at least three hourly or more frequently. The AWS should have the facility to log the data.

VOSClim (VOS Climate) ships

A mobile ship station equipped with sufficient certified meteorological instruments for making observations, transmits regular and timely weather reports, enters the observations in an International Maritime Meteorological Tape (IMMT) compliant electronic logbook and has a proven record of providing high quality observations. A VOSClim ship should have at least a barometer, a thermometer to measure SST, a psychrometer (for air temperature and humidity), a barograph and possibly an anemometer. The full range of metadata must be maintained in WMO No. 47, ideally including the full suite of digital images, sketches and drawings, and the delayed-mode IMMT data must be submitted to the Global Collecting Centres (GCCs). It is highly desirable for a VOSClim ship to be inspected at less than six monthly intervals.

VOSClim (VOS Climate) AWS ships

A mobile ship station equipped with an AWS system comprising certified meteorological instruments to measure at least air pressure, pressure change, temperature and humidity. Optional sensors would include wind speed and direction and sea temperature measurement. The AWS should have a facility for manual input of the visual elements, and transmit reports at least three hourly or more frequently. The AWS must have the facility to log the data including the additional IMMT delayed-mode VOSClim groups. The full range of metadata must be maintained in WMO No. 47, ideally including the full suite of digital images, sketches and drawings, and the delayed mode IMMT data must be submitted to the GCCs. It is highly desirable for a VOSClim ship to be inspected at less than six monthly intervals.

Supplementary ships

A mobile ship station equipped with a limited number of certified meteorological instruments for making observations. It transmits regular weather reports and enters the observations in a meteorological logbook.

Supplementary AWS ships

A mobile ship station equipped with an AWS system comprising a limited number of certified meteorological instruments and reporting regularly. The AWS should at least measure air pressure.

Auxiliary ships

A mobile ship station normally without certified meteorological instruments, which transmits in a reduced code form or in plain language, either on a routine basis or on request, in certain data sparse areas and under certain conditions.

Auxiliary AWS ships

A mobile ship station equipped with an AWS system comprising non-certified meteorological instruments and reporting regularly. The AWS should at least measure air pressure.