

Ship Observations Team

~ integrating & coordinating international ship-based observing programmes for JCOMM ~



Review of VOS Classes

Doc III-4.5

SOT-V

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Existing Classifications

- **Selected:** 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 AT and humidity), a barograph and possibly an anemometer.
- **Supplementary:** 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.
- **Auxiliary:** 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 areas and under certain conditions.

Proposed New Class and Sub-Classes

- New Class + 'new' Pub47 Table 2202
 - » 30 - VOSCLim
- New Sub-Classes
 - » 15 – Selected (AWS)
 - » 35 – VOSCLim (AWS)
 - » 45 – Supplementary (AWS)
 - » 75 – Auxiliary (AWS)

Proposed VOS^{Clim} Class Criteria

- A mobile ship station equipped with sufficient certified meteorological instruments for making observations, transmits regular and timely weather reports, enters the observations in an IMMT compliant electronic logbook and has a proven record of providing high quality observations. A VOS^{Clim} ship should have at least a barometer, a thermometer to measure SST, a psychrometer (for AT and humidity), a barograph and possibly an anemometer. In addition, a VOS^{Clim} ship must be inspected at less than six monthly intervals, the full range of metadata must be maintained in WMO No. 47, the full suite of digital images, sketches and drawings must be available, and the delayed-mode IMMT data must be submitted quarterly to the GCCs.

Proposed Sub-Class Criteria

- **Selected (AWS)** – an AWS system equipped with certified meteorological instruments to measure at least 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 (AWS)** - An AWS system equipped with 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 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 extra VOSClim delayed-mode groups. In addition, a VOSClim (AWS) ship must be inspected at less than six monthly intervals, the full range of metadata must be maintained in WMO No. 47, the full suite of digital images, sketches and drawings must be available, and the delayed-mode IMMT data must be submitted quarterly to the GCCs
- **Supplementary (AWS)** –an AWS system equipped with a limited number of certified meteorological instruments, reporting regularly.
- **Auxiliary (AWS)** – an AWS system using non-certified meteorological instruments, reporting regularly.

Recommendations

1. That members review the VOS class of all ships in their national VOF and correct to the proper VOS class as necessary.
2. That members ensure the metadata contained in WMO Pub.47 matches the assigned VOS classification.
3. The Team approves the criteria discussed under item III-4.1 for declaring a ship as VOS_{Clim}.
4. The Team approves the new sub-classes and criteria for shipboard AWS.
5. That all relevant publications are updated to include the new VOS class of VOS_{Clim} and the new sub-classes for VOS AWS including the classification criteria.

