

# OPERATIONAL NEWSLETTER

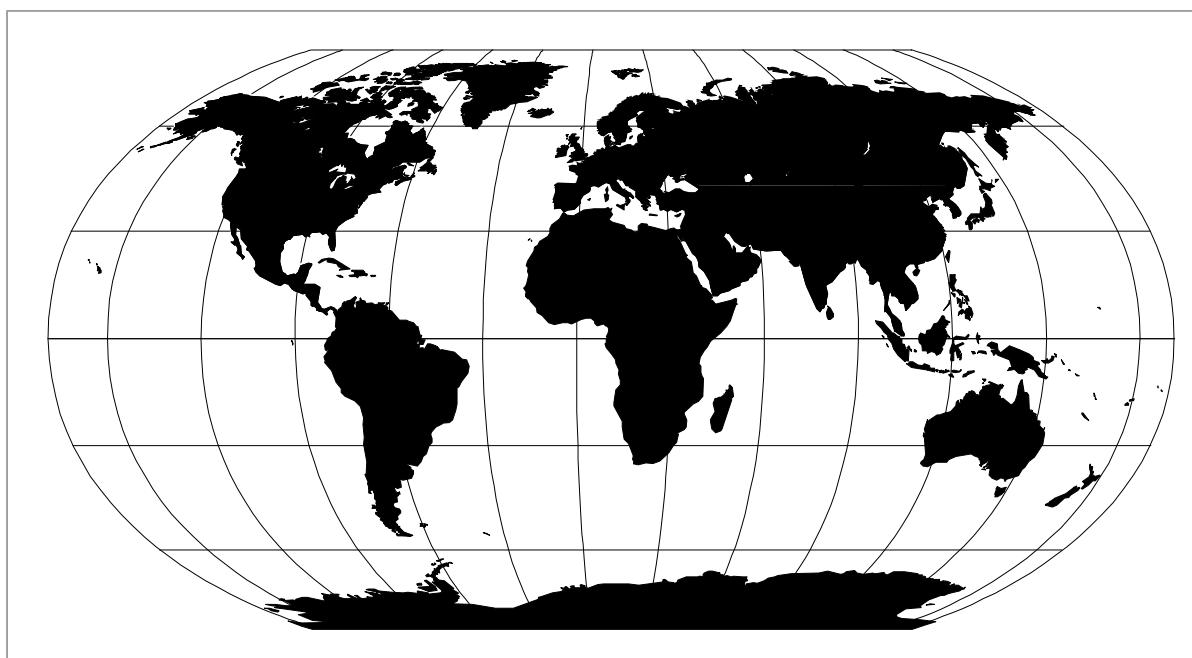
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VOLUME 1997

No. 3/4 - MARCH/APRIL 1997

## WORLD WEATHER WATCH



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA  
SWITZERLAND

The WMO Secretariat would like to express its appreciation to all those who have contributed material to the "Operational Newsletter".

The Operational Newsletter on the World Weather Watch (WWW) and Marine Meteorological Services (MMS) has been issued since 1982 at the request of the Commission for Basic Systems. It is distributed by the WMO Secretariat and is aimed at providing WWW Centres with a summary of the latest operational information on:

- The Global Observing System
- The Global Telecommunication System
- The Global Data-Processing System
- Data Management and Codes
- Marine Meteorological Services

A feedback form is included in the Newsletter to assist WMO Members in reporting changes in the present status of implementation of observing programmes of SYNOP, TEMP and PILOT reporting stations.

Your co-operation in ensuring that the above information reaches the appropriate operational units of your service is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the printed version which is distributed by mail, the Operational Newsletter is also available at the following locations:

**For access via FTP:**

<ftp://WWW.WMO.CH/wmo-ddbs/Newsltrxxxx.pdf>

**For access via html:**

<http://WWW.WMO.CH/web/www/Newsltrxxxx.pdf>

(xxxx indicates the year/month (eg. 9701))

PLEASE check our World Weather Watch home page for the most recent edition.

The file is created in Adobe Acrobat PDF (Portable Document Format) format so that users can easily download, view or print the document from different computer platforms, keeping the page layout and typography of the original document intact.

To view the Newsletter you will require "Adobe Acrobat Reader", which can be downloaded from:

<http://www.adobe.com/Acrobat/readstep.html>

Should you have any difficulties downloading, viewing or printing the Newsletter ... Our e-mail address is as follows:

**PWOI@WWW.WMO.CH**

We look forward to hearing from you

Rising costs demand that we scale down the distribution of the Newsletter by letter mail, so we strongly encourage our readers to help us become more cost-effective by using our new on-line service.



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# I. GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEM

## Guidance Material on Instruments and Observing Methods

"WMO Catalogue of Radiosondes and Upper-air Wind Systems in Use By Members"  
*Updates*

Country	Namibia 8/1/97	Namibia 8/1/97	Romania 18/3/97	Romania 18/3/97	Romania 18/3/97
Index No.	68110	68098	15120	15420	15480
Name:	WINDHOEK	WALVIS BAY AIRPORT	CLUJ-NAPOCA	BUCARESTI/IMH	CONSTANTA
Latitude:	-22.57	-22.96	46.78	44.5	44.22
Longitude	17.1	14.66	23.57	26.13	28.63
Ht (m/AMSL)	1700	150	413	91	14
TEMP Program	0012	12	00	00	00
PILOT Program	-	-	00	00	00
Regular Radiosonde Type	VRS80N	Graw (DFM- 90)	VRS80N	VRS80N	A-22
Alt. Radiosonde Type	VRS80-18G	-	-	-	-
Radiosonde Freq.uency (MHz)	403	402-406	403	403	216
Geo ht. calculation (AUT/MAN)	A	A	A	A	
GCOS (Y/N)	Y		N	N	N
Ground Equipment	DIGICORA	Graw (GK-90)	DIGICORA	DIGICORA	DIGICORA
Radiation Corr. (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Radiation Corr. Type	V86	-	V86	V86	
Windfinding System/Method	OMEGA/GPS	OMEGA/ RADIOTEHO DOLITE?	OMEGA	OMEGA	OMEGA and LORAN- C
Windfinding Equipment	DIGICORA	Graw (GK- 90)/Atir	DIGICORA	DIGICORA	DIGICORA
Remarks	To change from Omega to GPS during 1997	Station to open during early to mid- 1997	DIGICORA SINCE 01/12/92	DIGICORA SINCE 01/12/92	Planned to switch to AVK 1993. DIGICORA since 12/12/96. Due to high costs operational programs reduced to one radiosonding daily on 18/3/97

**Information on the Operational Status of Elements  
of the Surface-Based Sub-System**

**PUBLICATION NO. 9, VOLUME A -  
OBSERVING STATIONS**

**Feed-Back From Members to the Secretariat  
on any Changes in the Observing Network**

In view of the difficulties experienced in identifying non-implemented observing stations or implemented stations which are closed or suspended for a certain period, or stations making observations that do not reach their NMCs, a special table accompanied by explanatory notes is included in this Newsletter. The table will serve as feed-back from Members to the Secretariat on any changes of the present state of implementation of observing programmes of SYNOP, TEMP and PILOT reporting stations.

Members are urged to fill in the special table as and when appropriate, and to return it to the Secretariat so that the changes can be included in the next "OPERATIONAL NEWSLETTER".

**TEMPORARY CHANGES**

**NOTIFICATION FROM AUSTRALIA**

**End of Australian Summer Time:**

Australian summer time ceased at 1500 UTC on 29 March 1997 in:

New South Wales,  
the Australian Capital Territory,  
Victoria,  
South Australia and  
Tasmania

Australian Summer Time was not implemented in :

Queensland,  
Western Australia or the  
Northern Territory.

Surface observations reverted to normal program from 1500 UTC on 29 March 1997 in:

New South Wales,  
the Australian Capital Territory,  
Victoria,  
South Australia and  
Tasmania.

No changes will be made to the time of surface observations in:

Queensland,  
Western Australia or the  
Northern Territory.

Upper air observations in all states and territories reverted to normal program from 1500 UTC on 29 March 1997.

**NOTIFICATION FROM PORTUGAL**

Within the scope of project ACE-2/CLEARCOLUMN, two daily radiosonde observations are programmed to be performed at Sao Teotonio, in principle this will be at 0600 UTC and 1500/1800 UTC, from 16 June to 31 July 1997.

In order to enable the dissemination of TEMP messages through the GTS with the results of the observations, the index number proposed to be allotted, corresponding to the location of Sao Teotonio station (Lat.=3733N, Long. =0843W and ht=119m) is: 08577.



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Index No.	Name of Station	Position		Elevation		Pressure Level	Surface Observations						OBS. H OBS.S	Upper-air				Other Observations and Remarks	Bulletins	
		Latitude	Longitude	HP	H/HA		00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12	18		
94403	P GERALDTON AIRPORT													S00-24	RW	W	RW2)	W	A:METAR:CLIMAT(CT):EVAP:RAD:AUT:SOILTEMP	
94510	P CHARLEVILLE AIRPORT													S00-24	RW	RW	RW3)	W	A:METAR:EVAP:AUT:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR	
94578	P BRISBANE AIRPORT M.O.													S00-24	RW	W	RW	W	A:METAR:EVAP:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR:AUT	
Region V - AUSTRALIA (LAT. 30 S - 35 S )																				
94610	P BELMONT PERTH AIRPORT													S00-24	RW	W	RW	W	METAR:CLIMAT(CT):EVAP:OZONE:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR	
94637	P KALGOORLIE-BOULDER AMO													S00-24	RW	W	RW4)	W	A:EVAP:AUT:SOILTEMP	
94638	P ESPERANCE MO													H16-12	RW	W	RW6)	W	EVAP:SOILTEMP:AUT	
94653	CEDUNA AIRPORT														W	W	W13)	W12)	WR:A;C:METAR:CLIMAT(C):EVAP:LIT;M/B:SUNDUR	
94659	P WOOMERA AERODROME													H17-12	RW	W	RW7)	W	WR:A:METAR:CLIMAT(CT):EVAP:M/B:RAD:RSD:SUNDUR	
94672	PADELAIDE AIRPORT													S00-24	RW	W	RW	W	A:AUT:EVAP:METAR:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR	
94750	P NOWRA RAN AIR STATION													H00-24	RW8)	RW8)	RW8)	RW8)	WR;A;C:METAR:LIT;M/B:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR	
94791	P COFFS HARBOUR MO													H17-11	RW9)	W	W10)	W11)	A:AUT:CLIMAT(C):EVAP:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR	
94802	P ALBANY AIRPORT													S00-24	RW	W	RW7)	W	A:METAR:CLIMAT(CT):EVAP:AUT:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR	
Region V - AUSTRALIA (LAT. 35 S - 40 S )																				
94907	P EAST SALE AERODROME													H17-12	W	W	W	W	A;C:METAR:CLIMAT(C):EVAP:M/B:SOILTEMP:SUNDUR	
Region V - AUSTRALIA (LAT. 40 S - 45 S )																				
94975	P HOBART AIRPORT													H00-24	RW	W	RW	W	WR;A;C:METAR:CLIMAT(CT):M/B:OZONE:RAD:SUNDUR	
Region V - AUSTRALIA (ADDITIONAL ISLANDS)																				
94995	P LORD HOWE ISLAND													H17-12	RW	W	RW6)	W	A:AUT:C:CLIMAT(CT):	

- 1) Not on 1,3,4,6,7
- 2) Not on 1,3,5,6,7
- 3) Not on 2,3,5,6,7
- 4) Not on 1,2,4,5,7
- 6) Not on 1,2,3,5,6
- 7) Not on 2,3,4,6,7
- 8) R and W irregular
- 9) Not on 2,4,5,6,7
- 10) Not on 4,6
- 11) Not on 2
- 12) Not on 6
- 13) Not on 2,3









**I**

Index No.	Name of Station	Position		Elevation		Pressure Level	Surface Observations							OBS. H OBS.S	Upper-air				Other Observations and Remarks	Bulletins
		Latitude	Longitude	HP	H/HA		00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	06	12	18		
17260	P GAZIANTEP	37 05N	37 22E	701	705		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	A:METAR:SPECI	
17270	SANLIURFA	37 08N	38 46E	549	549		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	CLIMAT(C):EVAP:PH:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17275	MARDIN	37 18N	40 44E	1050	1050	850 hPa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	PH:SOILTEMP	
17280	P DIYARBAKIR	37 53N	40 12E	677	687		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	RW	.	RW	.	A:METAR:CLIMAT(CT):SPECI:EVAP:PH:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17282	BATMAN	37 53N	41 07E	540	545		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	A:METAR:EVAP:PH:SPECI:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17285	HAKKARI	37 34N	43 46E	1728	1728	850 hPa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	CLIMAT(C):EVAP:PH:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17290	P BODRUM	37 02N	27 26E	26	15		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	C:EVAP:PH:SEA:SEATEMP:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17292	P MUGLA	37 13N	28 22E	646	646		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	CLIMAT(C):EVAP:PH:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17295	DALAMAN	36 42N	28 47E	9	7		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	S00-24	.	.	.	.	A:METAR:SPECI	
17298	MARMARIS	36 51N	28 16E	16	5		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	C:EVAP:PH:SEA:SEATEMP:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17300	P ANTALYA	36 42N	30 44E	54	51		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	S00-24	.	.	.	.	A:METAR:CLIMAT(C):EVAP:PH:SPECI:SEA:SEATEMP:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17320	ANAMUR	36 05N	32 50E	4	3		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	C:EVAP:PH:SEA:SEATEMP:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17330	P SILIFKE	36 23N	33 56E	15	15		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	EVAP:PH:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17340	MERSIN	36 48N	34 38E	3	3		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	C:CLIMAT(C):EVAP:PH:SEA:SEATEMP:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17350	P ADANA/INCIRLIK	37 00N	35 25E	66	73		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	A:METAR:SPECI	
17351	P ADANA/BOLGE	36 59N	35 21E	27	27		.	.	.	.	.	.	.	H00-24	RW	.	RW	.	CLIMAT(CT):EVAP:PH:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17352	ADANA/SAKIRPASA	36 59N	35 18E	20	20		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	A:METAR:SPECI	
17370	P ISKENDERUN	36 35N	36 10E	4	4		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	C:EVAP:PH:SEA:SEATEMP:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	
17375	FINIKE	36 18N	30 09E	2	2		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	H00-24	.	.	.	.	C:EVAP:PH:SEA:SEATEMP:SOILTEMP:SOLRA:SUNDUR	





## AUTOMATIC MARINE STATIONS

### KEY: Observed or Technical Parameters

Column	Parameters	Column	Parameters
1	Wind direction, speed and peak wind	12	Battery Voltage (BV)
2	Air temperature	13	Internal Temperature (Tint)
3	Air pressure	-	Parameter not observed
4	Pressure tendency	X	Buoy observes this parameter
5	Sea-surface temperature	.	Data under evaluation, not reported
6	Wave period and height		
7	Wave spectra	B	Buoy beached, sensor reporting
8	Drogued	N	No sensor installed
9	Subsurface temperatures	Q	Data questionable, but reported
10	Relative humidity	R	Buoy Retrieved
11	Visibility	S	Sensor/system failure

## ARGOS SERVICE

### ARGOS Monthly Status Report

**Date of statistics computation:**  
8 April 1997

- Reports handled by ARGOS Service  
(list of monthly collected ARGOS platforms sorted by type of platform)

Drifting Buoys	1192
Boats (<20 knots)	-
Marine Stations	191
Moored Buoys	293
Fixed Stations	525
Marine Animals	118
Terrestrial Animals	63
Birds	113
Balloons	7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2502</b>

- Reports inserted into the GTS  
(list of monthly collected ARGOS platforms on indicated GTS sites sorted by type of platform)

Inserted by RTH Toulouse:

Drifting Buoys	97
Fixed Stations	20
Moored Buoys	6
XBT Ships	11

Inserted by RTH/WMC Washington:

Drifting Buoys	587
Fixed Stations	43
Moored Buoys	59
XBT Ships	-

- Coding statistics of platforms reporting through ARGOS and distributed over the GTS:

BATHY	271
BUOY	205099
SHIP:	375
SYNOP:	30757
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>236502</b>











## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Separate tables should be prepared for global exchange and regional exchange respectively. These tables should contain information concerning any changes of the present state of implementation of observing programmes of SYNOP, TEMP and PILOT reporting stations for Volume A, the Catalogue of Meteorological Bulletins, and particularly for stations included in the Regional Basic Synoptic Networks (RBSN).

**For entries in these tables, the following should be taken into account:**

**COLUMN A:**

The station index number (IIii) and name of station;

**COLUMN B:**

Latitude and Longitude in degrees and minutes with the appropriate letters (N, S, E and W);

**COLUMN C:**

The TTAAii CCCC of the abbreviated headings of the meteorological bulletins which contain reports from the station should be inserted;

**COLUMN D:**

"X" for implementation and "-" for non-implementation should be inserted as appropriate. In order to easily identify changes in the programme, these should be marked in red;

**COLUMN E:**

HP= Elevation of the station in metres (the datum level to which barometric pressure reports at the station refer);

H = Elevation of the ground, in metres, (average level of terrain in immediate vicinity of station), for stations not located on aerodromes;

HA = Official altitude of the aerodrome given for stations located on aerodromes is indicated by the letter "A" in the column "Other observations and Remarks" of Volume A;

**COLUMN F:**

For those stations not indicating pressure reduced to mean sea level (group 4PPPP) in their synoptic reports, the entry in this column shows which information is reported in lieu of group 4PPPP (see table 1):

STATION	Pressure at station level reported using group 3P <sub>0</sub> P <sub>0</sub> P <sub>0</sub> P <sub>0</sub>
1000 hPa	geopotential of the given standard isobaric surface reported using group 4a3hhh
850 hPa	
700 hPa	
500 hPa	

*Table 1*

**COLUMN G:**

Reasons for temporary suspension of observing programmes and an expected date of resumption of the programmes should be given as far as possible. Non-standard collection and/or distribution times should also be included, and also possible alternate observing stations, as appropriate.

**These tables should be sent to the  
Secretariat  
BEFORE the 20th of the month for inclusion in the  
"OPERATIONAL NEWSLETTER",  
as appropriate.**

**I**

## Feed-Back from Members to the Secretariat on any Changes in the Observing Network

(A)		(B)		(C)	(D)								(E)		(F)	(G)
Index No.	Station Name	Position		Bulletin Identification	Implementation of Observing Programme								Elevation		Pressure	Remarks
		Latitude	Longitude	TTAAii CCCC	00	03	06	09	12	15	18	21	HP	H/HA	Level	
SYNOP																
TEMP																
PILOT																



### III. GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

#### Information on the Operation of the GTS

##### PUBLICATION NO. 9, VOLUME C1 - CATALOGUE OF METEOROLOGICAL BULLETINS

Notification from

**UZBEKISTAN**

Page II-60-1-1  
add the following

Notification from

**GUYANA**

Notification from

**AUSTRALIA**

##### RTH/CRT TASHKENT

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SMUZ10	UTTW	FM 12-X EXT	00,06,12,18	Add station index number <u>38262</u> to the list

Effective 22 May 1997: change the four-letter indicator of the abbreviated heading CCCC.

Instead of reading "SYTM" change to "SYCJ" (Timehri/Cheddi Jagan International)

The Australian Antarctic Automatic Weather Station synoptic data in code form FM 12-X Ext are currently being compiled by WMC Melbourne into the following bulletins:

TTAAii	CCCC	TIME GROUP
SMAA02	AMMC	(main hours)
SIAA22	AMMC	(intermediate hours)
SNAA02	AMMC	(irregular hours)

As from 17 March 1997, the above bulletins will no longer be produced by WMC Melbourne.

Data from these Australian Antarctic Automatic Weather Stations are also available in the following bulletins:

TTAAii	CCCC	TIME GROUP
SMAA17	LFPW	00,06,12,18 UTC
SIAA17	LFPW	03,09,15,21 UTC
SNAA17	LFPW	01,02,04,05,07,08,10,11,13, 14,16,17,19,20,22,23

The above bulletins will replace:

TTAAii	CCCC
SMAA02	AMMC
SIAA22	AMMC
SNAA02	AMMC

**Effective  
4 APRIL 1997**

Heard Island synoptic data from stations 94997 (Spit Bay), and 95997 (Atlas Cove) in code form FM 12-X Ext., will be available in the following bulletins :

TTAAii	CCCC	TIME GROUP
SMSE01	LFPW	00,06,12,18
SISE01	LFPW	03,09,15,21
SNSE01	LFPW	non-standard hours

Bulletin SMHI01 AMMC, which previously contained the 0000 UTC synoptic report from station 94997, will no longer be produced by WMC Melbourne.

"Table of Contents"  
page V-1  
changes:

WMC/RTH	Zone of responsibility
Melbourne	Australia and outlying islands Brunei Darussalam Fiji French Polynesia Indonesia Kiribati Malaysia New Caledonia Papua New Guinea Philippines Singapore Solomon Islands Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu Wallis and Futuna Islands Western Samoa
Wellington	New Zealand and outlying islands Cook Islands Niue Pitcairn Tokelau

Page V-10-1-1  
Change page header  
details to the following:

WMC/CMM MELBOURNE  
**ZONE OF RESPONSIBILITY:** AUSTRALIA AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, FIJI, FRENCH POLYNESIA, INDONESIA, KIRIBATI, MALAYSIA, NEW CALEDONIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TONGA, TUVALU, VANUATU, WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS, WESTERN SAMOA

NAME OF COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA/AUSTRALIE  
 COMPILING OR EDITING CENTRE: MELBOURNE

Page V-10-1-2  
delete the following

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SMHI01	AMMC		00	94997

Pages V-10-1-1 to  
V-10-1-26

**Remove** all bulletins where CCCC = NFFN, NFTF, NGFU and NGTT

**Remove** bulletins: SMAA02 AMMC, SNAA02 AMMC, SNAA03 AMMC, and SIAA22 AMMC

Add new entries for  
Fiji.

NAME OF COUNTRY: FIJI.  
 COMPILING OR EDITING CENTRE: NADI

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
ASPS20	NFFN	FM 46-IV	00,12	SURFACE ANALYSIS
CSPS01	NFFN	FM 71-X	MONTHLY	91554 91558 91568 91610 91643 91650 91652 91680 91683 91699 91753
CUFJ01	NFFN	FM 75-X	MONTHLY	91680
FPFJ40	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		PUBLIC FORECAST
FPFJ41	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		PUBLIC FORECAST
FPKB40	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		PUBLIC FORECAST
FPKU40	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		PUBLIC FORECAST
FPTO40	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		PUBLIC FORECAST
FPZM40	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		PUBLIC FORECAST
FQPS01	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		SHIPPING FORECASTS
FTKB31	NFFN	FM 51-X EXT		NGTA
SEFJ01	NFFN	SPECIAL CODE		SEISMIC DATA
SIFJ20	NFFN	FM 12-X EXT	03,09,15	91650 91652 91659 91660 91670 91676 91680 91683 91691 91693 91697 91699 91822
SIJF20	NFFN	FM 12-X EXT	21	91650 91652 91659 91660 91670 91676 91678 91680 91683 91691 91693 91697 91699 91822
SIVE20	NFFN	FM 13-X	03,09,15,21	SHIP
SMFJ01	NFFN	FM 12-X EXT	00	91650 91652 91659 91660 91670 91676 91678 91680 91683 91691 91693 91697 91699 91753 91754 91822 91960
SMFJ01	NFFN	FM 12-X EXT	06,12	91650 91652 91659 91660 91670 91676 91680 91683 91691 91693 91697 91699 91753 91754 91822
SMFJ01	NFFN	FM 12-X EXT	18	91650 91652 91659 91660 91670 91676 91680 91683 91691 91693 91697 91699 91753 91754 91822 91960
SMVE01	NFFN	FM 13-X	00,06,12,18	SHIP
UAFJ01	NFFN			AIREP
UEFJ01	NFFN	FM 35-X EXT	00	91680
UGFJ20	NFFN	FM 32-IX	00,12	91680
UHFJ01	NFFN	FM 32-IX	00,12	91680
UKFJ01	NFFN	FM 35-X EXT	00	91680
ULFJ01	NFFN	FM 35-X EXT	00	91680
UPFJ01	NFFN	FM 32-IX	00,12	91680
UQFJ20	NFFN	FM 32-IX	00,12	91680
USFJ01	NFFN	FM 35-X EXT	00	91680
WHPS01	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		HURRICANE WARNINGS
WHPS02	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		HURRICANE WARNINGS
WHPS03	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		HURRICANE WARNINGS
WHPS04	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		HURRICANE WARNINGS
WOPS01	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		OTHER WARNINGS
WOPS02	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		OTHER WARNINGS
WOPS03	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		OTHER WARNINGS
WOPS04	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		OTHER WARNINGS
WSFJ01	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		SIGMET
WTPS01	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING
WTPS02	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING
WTPS03	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING
WTPS04	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING
WTPS11	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING
WTPS12	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING
WTPS13	NFFN	PLAIN LANGUAGE		TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING

### III

Add new entries for  
Kiribati

NAME OF COUNTRY: KIRIBATI  
COMPILE OR EDITING CENTRE: TARAWA

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
CUKB01	NGTT	FM 75-X	MONTHLY	91610
SIKB20	NGTT	FM 12-X EXT	03,21	91533 91610 91629
SMKB01	NGTT	FM 12-X EXT	00,06,12,18	91487 91490 91533 91601 91610 91623 91629 91701
UEKB01	NGTT	FM 35-X EXT	00	91610
UGKB20	NGTT	FM 32-IX	00,12	91610
UHKB01	NGTT	FM 32-IX	00,12	91610
UKKB01	NGTT	FM 35-X EXT	00	91610
ULKB01	NGTT	FM 35-X EXT	00	91610
UPKB01	NGTT	FM 32-IX	00,12	91610
UQKB20	NGTT	FM 32-IX	00,12	91610
USKB01	NGTT	FM 35-X EXT	00	91610

Add new entries for  
Tonga

NAME OF COUNTRY: TONGA  
COMPILE OR EDITING CENTRE: TONGA

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SITO21	NFTF	FM 12-X EXT	03,21	91779 91780 91784 91785 91786 91792
SITO21	NFTF	FM 12-X EXT	15	91779 91792
SMTO02	NFTF	FM 12-X EXT	00	91772 91776 91779 91780 91784 91785 91786 91792
SMTO02	NFTF	FM 12-X EXT	06,12,18	91772 91776 91779 91780 91784 91792
UGPS20	NFTF	FM 32-IX	00,06,12,18	91792
UPPS01	NFTF	FM 32-IX	00,06,12,18	91792

Add new entries for  
Tuvalu

NAME OF COUNTRY: TUVALU  
COMPILE OR EDITING CENTRE: FUNAFUTI

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
CUTV01	NGFU	FM 75-X	MONTHLY	91643
SITV20	NGFU	FM 12-X EXT	03,09,21	91643
SMTV01	NGFU	FM 12-X EXT	00,06,12,18	91631 91636 91643 91648
UETV01	NGFU	FM 35-X EXT	00	91643
UGTV20	NGFU	FM 32-IX	00,12	91643
UHTV01	NGFU	FM 32-IX	00,12	91643
UKTV01	NGFU	FM 35-X EXT	00	91643
ULTV01	NGFU	FM 35-X EXT	00	91643
UPTV01	NGFU	FM 32-IX	00,12	91643
UQTV20	NGFU	FM 32-IX	00,12	91643
USTV01	NGFU	FM 35-X EXT	00	91643

Add new entries for  
Western Samoa

NAME OF COUNTRY: WESTERN SAMOA  
COMPILE OR EDITING CENTRE: APIA

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
CSTK01	NSAP	FM 71-X	MONTHLY	91762
SMTK01	NSAP	FM 12-X EXT.	00,06	91720 91723 91724 91727 91762
SITK20	NSAP	FM 12-X EXT.	03,09	91723 91724 91762
SITK20	NSAP	FM 12-X EXT.	15	91723 91762
SITK20	NSAP	FM 12-X EXT.	21	91720 91723 91724 91727 91762

Page V-20-1-1  
change page header  
details to following:

RTH/CRT WELLINGTON  
 ZONE OF RESPONSIBILITY: NEW ZEALAND AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, COOK ISLANDS, NIUE, PITCAIRN, TOKELAU  
 NAME OF COUNTRY: NEW ZEALAND / NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE  
 COMPILING OR EDITING CENTRE: WELLINGTON

Pages V-20-1-1 to  
V-20-1-4

Add new entries for  
Cook Islands

NAME OF COUNTRY: COOK ISLANDS  
 COMPILING OR EDITING CENTRE: RAROTONGA

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
CSKU01	NCRG	FM 71-X	MONTHLY	91843
SMKU01	NCRG	FM 12-X EXT.	00,06,12,18	91802 91809 91811 91826 91831 91841 91843 91848
SIKU20	NCRG	FM 12-X EXT.	03,15,21	91802 91809 91826 91831 91841 91843 91848
SIKU20	NCRG	FM 12-X EXT.	09	91843
UHKU01	NCRG	FM 32-IX	00	91801 91843
UPKU01	NCRG	FM 32-IX	00	91801 91843
UPKU01	NCRG	FM 32-IX	12	91843
UGKU20	NCRG	FM 32-IX	00	91801 91843
UGKU20	NCRG	FM 32-IX	12	91843
UQKU20	NCRG	FM 32-IX	00	91801 91843
UQKU20	NCRG	FM 32-IX	12	91843

Page VI-50-1

Add the following

RTH/CRT TOULOUSE  
 ZONE OF RESPONSIBILITY: FRANCE, BELGIUM, PORTUGAL, SPAIN  
 NAME OF COUNTRY: FRANCE  
 COMPILING OR EDITING CENTRE: TOULOUSE

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SMAA17	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	00,06,12,18	89568 89577 89757 89758 89762 89774 89803 89807 89810 89811 89813 89814 89815
SIAA17	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	03,09,15,21	89568 89577 89757 89758 89762 89774 89803 89807 89810 89811 89813 89814 89815
SNAA17	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	Non-standard hours	89568 89577 89757 89758 89762 89774 89803 89807 89810 89811 89813 89814 89815

In the following bulletins, add the index numbers

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SISE01	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	03,09,15,21	94997 95997
SMSE01	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	00,06,12,18	95997
SNSE01	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	Non-standard hours	95997

Delete the index number

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SISE20	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	03,09,15,21	94997

Changes:  
Antarctic,  
Page ANT-5-1-1 to  
ANT-5-1-2  
(Melbourne &  
Wellington)

**Remove** reference to "Wellington" in page header details  
**Remove** all bulletins from compiling/editing centre listings for Melbourne and Wellington where CCCC = NZCM, NZSP and NZKL  
**Remove** bulletins SMAA02 AMMC, SNAA02 AMMC, SNAA03 AMMC and SIAA22 AMMC  
**Add** new entry for Wellington

ANTARCTIC  
 COMPILING OR EDITING CENTRE: IN REGION V : WELLINGTON

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SMVJ01	NZKL	FM 13-X	00,06,12,18	SHIP/NAVIRE
UEVJ01	NZKL	FM 36-X EXT.	00,12	TEMP SHIP
UKVJ01	NZKL	FM 36-X EXT.	00,12	TEMP SHIP
ULVJ01	NZKL	FM 36-X EXT.	00,12	TEMP SHIP
USVJ01	NZKL	FM 36-X EXT.	00,12	TEMP SHIP
SIVJ20	NZKL	FM 13-X	03,09,15,21	SHIP/NAVIRE

Page ANT-6-3 -1  
(Rome, Toulouse)

Add the following  
bulletins for Australian  
Antarctic AWS data:

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SMAA17	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	00,06,12,18	89568, 89577, 89757, 89758, 89762, 89774, 89803, 89807, 89810, 89811, 89813, 89814, 89815 NOTE: AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC AWS
SIAA17	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	03,09,15,21	89568, 89577, 89757, 89758, 89762, 89774, 89803, 89807, 89810, 89811, 89813, 89814, 89815 NOTE: AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC AWS
SNAA17	LFPW	FM 12-X EXT.	01,02,04,05,0 7,08,10,11,13, 14,16,17,19,2 0,22,23	89568, 89577, 89757, 89758, 89762, 89774, 89803, 89807, 89810, 89811, 89813, 89814, 89815 NOTE: AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC AWS

Page ANT-7-2-1  
(Mc Murdo)

Add the following  
bulletins for  
Amundsen-Scott  
(89009) data:

TTAAii	CCCC	CODE FORM USED	TIME GROUP	CONTENT
SMAA01	NZSP	FM 12-X EXT.	00,06,12,18	89009
UEAA01	NZSP	FM 35-X EXT	00,12	89009
UGAA01	NZSP	FM 32-IX	00,12	89009
UKAA01	NZSP	FM 35-X EXT	00,12	89009
ULAA01	NZSP	FM 35-X EXT	00,12	89009
UQAA01	NZSP	FM 32-IX	00,12	89009
USAA01	NZSP	FM 35-X EXT	00,12	89009
SIAA20	NZSP	FM 12-X EXT.	03,09,15,21	89009

**UNITED KINGDOM  
 OF GREAT  
 BRITAIN AND  
 NORTHERN  
 IRELAND**

**Bracknell  
 (EGRR)**

**Changes to  
 Abbreviated  
 Header Lines  
 (AHL)  
 and GRIB code**

The following changes should be made to the transmission of Bracknell Numerical Weather Prediction products in 1997. These changes are to comply with the new WMO Abbreviated Message Headings (AHL) and the cessation of Products using the obsolete GRIB code Version 0 (FM 92-VIII Ext.).

Bracknell originally scheduled the first change for 5 February 1997 and did implement it on that date. However, due to the number of complaints from people who (for various reasons) had not complied with the notification - the implementation date was cancelled on the same day. The plan is now to provide *duplicate* coded products on 7 May 1997, keeping the old products until 12 weeks later (until 30 July 1997).

Fax products (P\*\*\*\*\* and Q\*\*\*\*\*) are not affected at this stage.

1.  
THE INITIAL  
CHANGES TO BE  
MADE ON  
7 MAY 1997  
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**(a) Changes to ii in Abbreviated Header Line (AHL)**

**ii = 93 to ii = 88**

**ii = 98 to ii = 89**

These are to comply with WMO Abbreviated Header Line (AHL) changes .

- All (D/G/H/X/Y)\*\*\*93 EGRR products will be repeated as (D/G/H/X/Y)\*\*\*88
- All (D/G/H/X/Y)P\*\*98 EGRR products will be repeated as (D/G/H/X/Y)P\*\*89

(The first is to use the correct level ii=88 for '**ground or water properties at the Earth's surface**', which affects all wave products. ii=93 has been assigned to 975 hPa generally. During this process some products of **Pressure at MSLP** will also be corrected to use the correct ii=89 value instead of ii=98 - **Pressure at the earth's surface**).

**(b) New Regional Atmospheric MODEL GRIB products**

Bracknell (EGRR) will introduce a **Regional Atmospheric Model** GRIB product using the latest code FM 92-X Ext. This will be a single region **R** with resolution 1.25 latitude and 1.25 longitude covering the area:

**R      32.5°N to 75°N; 70°W to 35°E**

This is intended to replace the three GRIB Version 0 (FM 92-VIII Ext.) products on area codes **W**, **X** and **Y** which have the areas:

**W      32.5°N to 75°N; 70°W to 35°W**

**X      32.5°N to 75°N; 35°W to 0°E**

**Y      32.5°N to 75°N; 0°E to 35°E**

Listed below are the new headers which will be produced:

**Y(U,V,T)R(A-M)98**

**YPR(A-M)89**

**YER(A-M)98**

**YHR(A-M)(85,70,50,40,30,25,20,15,10)**

**Y(U,V,T)R(A-M)(95,85,70,50,40,30,25,20,15,10)**

**YRR(A-M)(95,85,70,50)**

**(c) New Regional Wave GRIB**

Bracknell (EGRR) will introduce a Regional Wave Model GRIB product using the latest code FM 92-X Ext. This will be a single region **N** with resolution 1.25 latitude and 1.25 longitude covering the area:

**N      31.25°N to 66.25°N; 13.75°W to 41.25°E**

This is intended to replace the GRIB Version 0 (FM 92-VIII Ext.) product on area code **M** which has the same resolution with a smaller area:

**M      31.25°N to 66.25°N; 13.75°W to 35.0°E**

Listed below are the new headers which will be produced:

**Y(J-N,Q,Y)N(A-M)88**

**2.**

FURTHER CHANGES  
TO BE MADE ON 30  
JULY 1997 ARE AS  
FOLLOWS:

GRIB products using GRIB 0 (FM 92-VIII Ext.) will cease. There are/will be products using GRIB 1 (FM 92-X Ext.) to replace them, but NOT using the same Abbreviated Header Lines (AHLs) or even the same regions.

**(a) Cessation of Global GRIB products using obsolete code**

Production of Global GRIB version 0 (FM 92-VIII Ext.) products (H\*(A,B,C,D)\*\*\*)EGRR with 2.5 x 5 resolution GRIB will cease.

These have already been replaced (3 years ago) by products using GRIB version 1 (FM 92-X Ext.) with the resolution 2.5 x 2.5 (H\*(S,T,U,V,W,X and Z)\*\*\*) EGRR. These are currently in use by many customers, but those who have not transferred should do so now.

(For **Aviation**, the products coded in Thinned GRIB (H\*(I to P)\*\*\*) EGRR are available and backed up with Washington data (H\*(I to P)\*\*\*) KWBC. These are not affected by this notice.)

**(b) Cessation of Regional GRIB products using obsolete code**

Regional Atmospheric and Wave model GRIB products Y\*(W,X,Y)\*\*\* and Y\*M\*\*\* in GRIB version 0 (FM 92-VIII Ext.) at 1.25 x 1.25 resolution will cease.

Users should replace these by the Y\*R\*\*\* and Y\*N\*\*\* products announced above in **1.(b)** and **1.(c)**.

**(c) Cessation of coded products using obsolete WMO AHLs**

All products using \*\*\*93 will cease.

All products using \*P\*\*98 will cease.

These changes may prove difficult to handle for some National Meteorological Services. **If you use GRIB v0 (FM 92-VIII Ext.) and experience difficulty in transferring to GRIB v1 (FM 92-X Ext.), please contact**

Mike Longworth  
National Met. Service Customer Manager  
The Met. Office  
Operational Services, Room 213  
email: [mlongworth@meto.gov.uk](mailto:mlongworth@meto.gov.uk)

**CORRIGENDUM**

*"Operational Newsletter Volume 1997 No1/2 - January/February 1997  
Annex III - GTS"*

An error was produced in the above indicated Newsletter. The text should have read as follows:

**Page 27** "Deleted Bulletins" should have read:

**"In the following bulletins, delete the index numbers listed below"**

**Page 28** "New Bulletins" should have read

**"In the following bulletins, add the index numbers listed below"**

For ease of reference we have included the complete listing with the corrected text on pages 39 and 40.

In the following bulletins, delete the index numbers listed below:

Abb.Heading TTAAii CCCC	Time Group (GG)	Content of Bulletin	Abb.Heading TTAAii CCCC	Time Group (GG)	Content of Bulletin
SMAU01 AMMC	00,06,12,18	94102	SNAU23 AMMC	02,08	94461 94649
SNAU01 AMMC	01,07	94101 94205 94402 95314	SNAU23 AMMC	14	94461
SNAU01 AMMC	19	94402	SNAU23 AMMC	20	94461 94649 94666
SNAU03 AMMC	05,11,23	94461 94649	SNAU24 AMMC	02	94380
SNAU03 AMMC	17	94461	SNAU24 AMMC	08	94380
SNAU04 AMMC	05,23	94175 94355 94380	SNAU24 AMMC	14	94380
SNAU04 AMMC	11	94380	SNAU24 AMMC	20	94380
SNAU04 AMMC	17	94380	SNAU25 AMMC	02	94527 94940 94967
SNAU05 AMMC	05	94689 94861 94967 94940	SNAU25 AMMC	08	94527 94940 94967
SNAU05 AMMC	11	94940 94527 94967	SNAU25 AMMC	20	94527 94940 94967
SNAU05 AMMC	17	94527 94689 94967	SNAU40 AMMC	01	94317 94319
SNAU05 AMMC	23	94527 94689 94940 94851 94861 94967	SNAU40 AMMC	07	94319
SNNG01 AMMC	05,23	94001 94003 94004 94014 94035 94044 94047 94076 94085 94087	SNAU42 AMMC	01	94642 94647 95205
SNNG01 AMMC	11	94004 94014 94035 94044 94047 94076 94085	SNAU42 AMMC	04	94642 94647 95205
SNNG01 AMMC	17	94014 94035 94044 94047	SNAU42 AMMC	07	94642 94647 95205
UEAU01 AMMC	00	94403 94461	SNAU42 AMMC	10	94642 94647 95205
UEAU03 AMMC	00	94380 95527	SNAU42 AMMC	13	94642 94647 95205
UEAU04 AMMC	00	94750	SNAU42 AMMC	16	94642 94647 95205
UEAU04 AMMC	18	94750	SNAU42 AMMC	19	94642 94647 95205
UENG01 AMMC	00,12	94014 94035 94044	SNAU42 AMMC	22	94642 94647 95205
UHAU01 AMMC	00,06,12,18	94403 94430 94461	SNAU44 AMMC	02	94651
UHAU03 AMMC	00,06,12,18	95527	SNAU44 AMMC	05	94651
UHAU04 AMMC	00,06,12,18	94750	SNAU44 AMMC	08	94651
UHNG01AMMC	00,06,12,18	94014 94035 94044 92047 94076 94087	SNAU44 AMMC	11	94651
UKAU01 AMMC	00	94403 94461	SNAU44 AMMC	14	94651
UKAU03 AMMC	00	94380 95527	SNAU44 AMMC	17	94651
UKAU04 AMMC	00	94750	SNAU44 AMMC	20	94651
UKAU04 AMMC	18	94750	SNAU45 AMMC	02	94691 95458 95481
UKNG01AMMC	00,12	94014 94035 94044	SNAU45 AMMC	05	94691 95458 95481
ULAU01 AMMC	00	94403 94461	SNAU45 AMMC	08	94691 95458 95481
ULAU03 AMMC	00	95527 94380	SNAU45 AMMC	11	94691 95458 95481
ULAU04 AMMC	00	94750	SNAU45 AMMC	14	94691 95458 95481
ULAU04 AMMC	18	94750	SNAU45 AMMC	17	94691 95458 95481
ULNG01AMMC	00,12	94014 94035 94044	SNAU45 AMMC	20	94691 95458 95481
ULAU45 AMMC	23		SNAU45 AMMC	23	94691 95458 95481
ULAU46 AMMC	02		SNAU46 AMMC	02	94236 94327 94462
ULAU46 AMMC	05		SNAU46 AMMC	05	94236 94327 94462
ULAU46 AMMC	08		SNAU46 AMMC	08	94236 94462
ULAU46 AMMC	11		SNAU46 AMMC	11	94236 94327 94462
ULAU46 AMMC	14		SNAU46 AMMC	14	94236 94462
ULAU46 AMMC	17		SNAU46 AMMC	17	94236 94462
UPAU01 AMMC	00,06,12,18	94403 94430 94461	SNAU46 AMMC	20	94236 94327 94462
UPAU03 AMMC	00,06,12,18	95527	SNAU46 AMMC	23	94236 94327 94462
UPAU04 AMMC	00,06,12,18	94750	SNAU48 AMMC	05	94542
UPNG01AMMC	00,06,12,18	94014 94035 94044 92047 94076 94087	SNAU48 AMMC	11	94542
USAU01 AMMC	00	94403 94461	SNAU48 AMMC	14	94542
USAU03 AMMC	00	94380 95527	SNAU48 AMMC	20	94542
USAU04 AMMC	00	94750	SNAU48 AMMC	23	94542
USAU04 AMMC	18	94750	SNAU49 AMMC	02	94170 94584
USNG01AMMC	00,12	94014 94035 94044	SNAU49 AMMC	05	94170 94584
USAU04 AMMC	05		SNAU49 AMMC	08	94170 94584
USAU04 AMMC	11		SNAU49 AMMC	11	94170 94584
USAU04 AMMC	14		SNAU49 AMMC	14	94170 94584
USAU04 AMMC	17		SNAU49 AMMC	17	94170 94584
USAU04 AMMC	20		SNAU49 AMMC	20	94170 94584
USAU04 AMMC	23		SNAU49 AMMC	23	94170 94584
SNAU21 AMMC	04	94402	SNAU50 AMMC	02	94485
SNAU21 AMMC	10	94402 95314	SNAU50 AMMC	05	94485
SNAU21 AMMC	16	94402 95314	SNAU50 AMMC	08	94485
SNAU21 AMMC	22	94101 94402	SNAU50 AMMC	11	94485



**LIST OF RTH FOCAL POINTS**

The Eleventh Session of CBS invited those Members operating an RTH to designate a focal point who could be contacted by other GTS centres and the Secretariat. The list of RTH focal points is given hereunder according to the information received in the Secretariat. Members are invited to complete and update this list as required.

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## IV. DATA MANAGEMENT AND CODES

### THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

The "Year 2000 Problem" is the generic term commonly used in connection with the various problems that may occur at the turn of the century with software and even hardware of computer systems. While this issue is in principle of relevance in all computer systems - large or small, it is particularly critical for many of those computer applications in which the calendar date is of importance, such as in meteorological data-processing and telecommunications.

The Commission for Basic Systems (CBS), at its eleventh session (October/November 1996, Cairo, Egypt), underlined that the problem might affect computer-based systems operating in all sectors of the NMHSs, in particular however in WWW-related operations. The Commission invited NMHSs to pay serious attention to the matter so that necessary changes to computer systems might be made in good time. It will continue to monitor this problem and additional information and guidance will be published as it becomes available.

The United Kingdom Meteorological Office has developed a document that describes the issues involved in more detail and gives some practical advice on how to deal with the problem. This document is included hereafter.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 For many years it has been recognised that computer hardware and software would have a problem when the date changed from 31 December 1999 to 1 January 2000. The reason for this is simply because in much software, the year has often been truncated to 2 digits (i.e. the year of the century). The problem is made more serious when one realises that systems may not just stop working but give the wrong results and continue working, thus creating an even bigger crisis.

1.2 The problem is most obvious when trying to perform a calculation using a date from each century which are in the form DDMMYY.

#### 1.3 Other typical problems:

- Some PCs, if left running from 23:59 31/12/99 to 00:01 1/1/00, and then powered off and on, will re-start with a date of 08/01/1984.
- Some date software is known to treat the year 2000 wrongly as a leap year, causing problems on or after 29/2/2000. The year 1900 was NOT a leap year, but the year 2000 is.

- Strictly speaking, the new century and millennium do not begin on the 1/1/2000 but on 1/1/2001. It is not clear how software that uses 'the century' separately from 'the year of the century' will behave.
- Even more difficult are those legacy programs which use the year 99 or 00 to have special meaning such as "end of file" or "keep for ever".

1.4 It has also been shown that it is not just the traditional computing areas that need to be investigated. For example:

- Many automated observing instruments, such as cloud base recorders, have a PC embedded in them and they will fail at about 0001Z on the 1 January 2000.
- The less obvious systems such as the telephone system, fire alarm system and pay roll system.

1.5 Some of these systems may just need a quick investigation to prove they do not rely on the date and can therefore be signed off immediately as being 'YEAR 2000 compliant'. Others may require extensive negotiations with the supplier, particularly if they have not started considering the problem or are clearly not able to meet the deadline. This could mean purchasing new systems or installing emergency manual systems until a solution is provided.

1.6 In addition, it is quite likely that questions could be asked about the NMHS's state of readiness by customers and politicians who become aware of the problem.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 These are not trivial problems as they are to be found on both hardware and software, inside and outside the NMHSs. In fact, the problems can seem so big that there is temptation to do nothing in the hope that the problems will disappear because of other peoples' efforts.

2.2 Only now it would seem that the IT industry is beginning to take note of the problem (with 38 months left) and users of IT systems are beginning to ask "Who is dealing with this problem?"

2.3 Often in a project, management has two options. One is to add more staff resources, which may or may not speed up the project, or the final delivery date is slipped. Unfortunately, the 1 January 2000 cannot be postponed. The adding of extra staff resources (which may be very scarce) later in a project may have an adverse effect. However, if it is later found that the staff resource was an over estimate then they could be redeployed elsewhere or the project could be completed earlier than expected.

2.4 Another area of concern is that people are already hoping their current software, or hardware, will be redundant and replaced in time so the problem will disappear, or that because software was supplied by an external body, it must be correct.

2.5 However, for example, the Bank of Scotland, which uses 67 software packages, sent a questionnaire to all its software suppliers. The replies show that 40% of vendors said their systems would be correct and 40% said they would not. Most worrying were the 15% who said they did not know and the 5% who could not be traced.

2.6 Despite the potential size and complexity of the problem it is not insurmountable. This has been proven by, for example, banks and building societies calculating mortgage payments and interest rates beyond the year 2000. Even within the UKMO there are areas, such as climate models, which routinely deal with the next century.

2.7 A number of the major IT consultancy groups, e.g. Gartner Group, have started to provide estimates of the resources that will be required to fix problems. For example, 100,000 lines of software will take on average 1 staff-year of effort to fix. In the UKMO operational source libraries on the IBM mainframe there are 241,672 lines of executable software. This would require 2.5 staff-years of effort to fix any problems. A simpler view is that if there are 60 lines of software per page and it takes 5 minutes to read and comprehend a page, then it would take approximately 10 staff-weeks just to read the software, without correcting and testing.

2.8 A survey of staff in the UKMO indicated, and later sample tests continued to show, many were still of the opinion that the problem is not theirs but someone else's.

For example :

- "We have a maintenance contract with the supplier of our equipment and we expect them to fix any problems through normal maintenance."
- "Our systems are non-critical (i.e. not part of the daily operational suite) so we will fix any problem when we meet it."
- "We only expect problems to occur with the supported hardware and software such as the IBM mainframe, or PCs with Microsoft Office, which of course is the problem of someone in the IT support area."

2.9 Giving presentations may help to improve awareness of the problem and address some of the above issues, but that is not enough to guarantee that senior management can stand up with confidence and state when a NMHS will be ready for the YEAR 2000. In order that staff and customers can be assured that a NMHS is ready, there will be the need to be investigations, discussions with individuals/teams, action and evidence that testing has taken place.

## 3. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

3.1 The most important step is that Senior Management is made aware of the problem and the need for resources.

3.2 A single person or group must be tasked with doing an initial investigation to scope the size of the problem.

3.3 The staff should be made aware that this is THEIR problem. By emphasising this as a user problem, they will find it easier to commit resources to finding solutions or confirming the problem does not exist in their applications.

3.4 If a NMHS is going to solve this problem, it would best be done in a managed way. This will have a number of positive effects.

- Internal staff will know the problem is being tackled and therefore fear of nothing being done is removed.
- Staff will know who is co-ordinating the effort and who has overall responsibility which will increase confidence in solutions being found and implemented in a timely fashion.
- A positive clear statement can be made to external customers when questioned.
- Difficult decisions will not be shelved but faced head on.

3.5 The NMHS could contract out the problem as some companies have decided. This may seem a good idea as the problem would appear to have been passed to someone else. However the contractor may not be able to deal with all aspects of the problem and therefore the NMHS will have to fill in the gaps and most probably do the actual work of installing changes.

#### **4. ACTION PLAN**

4.1 The UKMO developed the following approach in order to break down the problem into manageable parts, estimate the size of the problem and identify what possibly needs to be done, before it happens:

- Start investigating the problem now, as it is already late.
- Make everyone aware of the problem and get top level management to take responsibility for it.
- Recognise that this is a major project and will fail if project management and risk management are not done successfully.
- Fixing the problem will bring no benefit to the organisation in terms of revenue or new products.
- Fixing the problem will mean the organisation can deliver services at the year 2000 and beyond.
- Do not believe anyone who says their system (hardware or software) is OK - get them to PROVE it and SIGN for it.

4.2 Perform a technical audit of all software and systems likely to be affected. This may take a significant time when done properly. In particular:

- Build an inventory of hardware that will still be operating around 1999/2000 (and thus hardware that will be disposed of before then);

- Build an inventory of internal software;
- Build an inventory of commercial software.

4.2.1 Unless these inventories are created it will be impossible to scope the size of the problem properly or to be certain which items have been covered and checked off.

4.2.2 For example there is no point in testing software on Hewlett Packard UNIX workstations when HP have stated that their HP-UX operating system does NOT calculate dates after 2000 correctly. The problem will be fixed in release 10.30 of the operating system which is scheduled for release in the second half of 1997. This means these workstations will have to be upgraded before any serious testing of code can take place. The planning of these upgrades will have to be incorporated into the testing of any application software on UNIX workstations.

4.3 Perform a contractual audit of those systems identified in the technical audit as problematic, to find out who is responsible, and therefore should pay, to fix the systems. The relevant clauses in the existing agreements should be examined, to ensure that the contractor can be forced to act. There may be maintenance clauses that do not mention Year 2000, but imply it through: 'fitness for purpose', or 'performs according to the functional specification', or preventative maintenance, or a long contract term into the next century.

4.4 Perform an Intellectual Property audit for those systems where the contractor cannot be forced to rectify the situation. This is to find out if you have the rights to modify or adapt the system or to get a third party to make the modifications.

4.5 Ensure any new agreements entered into specify a warranty that the new system will behave correctly. You must also specify what 'behave correctly' means, and an acceptance

test may be useful. As a fall back position, also consider what to do if the warranty is not effective (For example, an ESCROW agreement, where a third party keeps the software source code for release when the warranty fails. Under English law, there is no automatic right of access to source code if the supplier fails to maintain software.)

4.6 Plan and perform testing of systems, involving users. Ensure that the systems/applications have been seen to be tested, passed and most importantly, the individual items signed off.

## 5. ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS?

5.1 Despite the potential size of the problem and the possibility of a large drain on resources which are already scarce, this exercise does provide new opportunities which should not be missed. For example:

- While investigating legacy software, if it needs to be changed, should it not be replaced by new software which is more cost effective? It might even be worthwhile asking the question "Is this software really necessary?"
- In doing the inventory of 3rd party software, there is the opportunity to discover what people use and why, and if there is redundant software. If the software does not cope with the date change then would it be cheaper to move to a new software package?

- If changes to software programs are large and complex, should the software be put under a formal change management and change control tool. This would improve the management and control of the change, but may also change the way that people work. For example the UKMO Unified Model is estimated to have 5 billion possible paths through it. Can a manual system cope with logging that all those paths have been checked for the change of date?

5.2 Investigating the problem and providing solutions will cost in both staff resources and money without providing any enhancement to the efficient running of the NMHS. However it will mean that the NMHS maintains its status and reputation and not have its customers go elsewhere for services.

## V. MARINE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (MMS) AND RELATED OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

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PUBLICATION NO. 9, VOLUME D -  
INFORMATION FOR SHIPPING

**Part B**

***Coastal Radio Stations Accepting Ships' Weather Reports and Oceanographic Reports***

**INMARSAT Coast Earth Stations (CESs)**

Notification from Australia

Effective 5.03.97: edit the following page D-B-INMARSAT-V-1-1

Perth INMARSAT A and C services should be divided into two separate entries, Indian Ocean Region and Pacific Ocean Region as follows:

**Indian Ocean Region**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Areas from which reports may be accepted	Name of NMC	CES Code	Automatic Service Code (41)	Country Code	Telex No. of NMC
South of the Equator Between Long 60E and 140E	Melbourne	02 (Standard A)	X (Standard A)	N/A	N/A
		322 (Standard C)	X (Standard C)	71 (Standard C)	154707 (Standard C)

**Pacific Ocean Region**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Areas from which reports may be accepted	Name of NMC	CES Code	Automatic Service Code (41)	Country Code	Telex No. of NMC
South of the Equator between Long 120E and 120W	Melbourne	02 (Standard A)	X (Standard A)	N/A	N/A
		222 (Standard C)	X (Standard C)	71 (Standard C)	154707 (Standard C)