



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat
7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300 – CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11 – Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – www.wmo.int

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WEATHER • CLIMATE • WATER

Our ref.: OBS/OSD/PUB-9/VOL-A

GENEVA, 29 April 2010

Annexes: 3 (available in English only)

Subject: Modifications to the database of the WMO Publication No. 9, Weather Reporting, Volume A (Observing Stations) to allow input of station coordinates with higher precision

Action required: To provide the WMO Secretariat, at your earliest convenience, but preferably not later than **31 July 2010** with updated:

- 1) Information of the observing stations, in accordance with the new specifications;
- 2) Contact details of the National Focal Point on matters related to Volume A.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The WMO Observing Systems Division operates and manages the database of the *WMO Publication No. 9, Weather Reporting, Volume A (Observing Stations)* with an output flat-file containing station metadata posted on the WMO website once a week on Mondays. Also, a CD-ROM is produced annually, at the beginning of each year.

The Extraordinary Session of the Commission for Basic Systems 2006 (CBS-Ext, (06)) noting that no standard reference system had been endorsed by the WMO to be used as reference for both horizontal and vertical position of a station, adopted Recommendation 1 (CBS-Ext.(06)) taking a World Geodetic System and a Global GEOID Model as references for the positioning of an observing station. At its Fifty-ninth Session, the Executive Council of WMO approved this recommendation through Resolution 10 (EC-LIX).

Following this recommendation and approval, the WMO Secretariat developed the modifications to the database of the *WMO Publication No. 9, Weather Reporting, Volume A (Observing Stations)* to allow the input of station coordinates with higher precision. The revised version, which is now ready for implementation will record horizontal coordinates in a degrees-minutes-seconds (DMS) format; and vertical coordinates in meters rounded up to two decimals as precision. A detailed description of the changes are provided in the document "Record Layout of the Master Flat-file (revised version)", enclosed for ease of reference, and also available on the WMO website at <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/volume-a/vola-home.htm>.

To facilitate the transition, the WMO Secretariat will publish both the current and the revised versions for a period of 12 months starting from 1 August 2010.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6494)

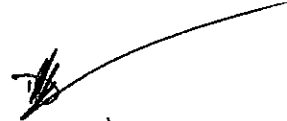
cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives
President of CBS, United States of America
Chair, CBS/OPAG-IOG, Camp Springs

I, therefore, urge you to provide the WMO Secretariat with updated information of the observing stations which fall within your area of responsibility, in accordance with the new specifications, at your earliest convenience but preferably not later than **31 July 2010**. A copy of a "Feedback Form" which is available on the above website is also enclosed.

May I also request you to keep your National Focal Point on matters related to Volume A (see: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/volume-a/FocalPointsVolA.doc>) informed of these changes. In this respect, I take this opportunity to invite you to provide the WMO Secretariat with an update, if necessary, concerning your National Focal Point, using the form attached.

I wish to thank you for your continued support to the World Weather Watch Programme and in particular to the activities related to *WMO Publication No. 9, Weather Reporting, Volume A (Observing Stations)*.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Lengoasa', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General