JULY 2024

Changes to WAFS SIGWX Forecasts

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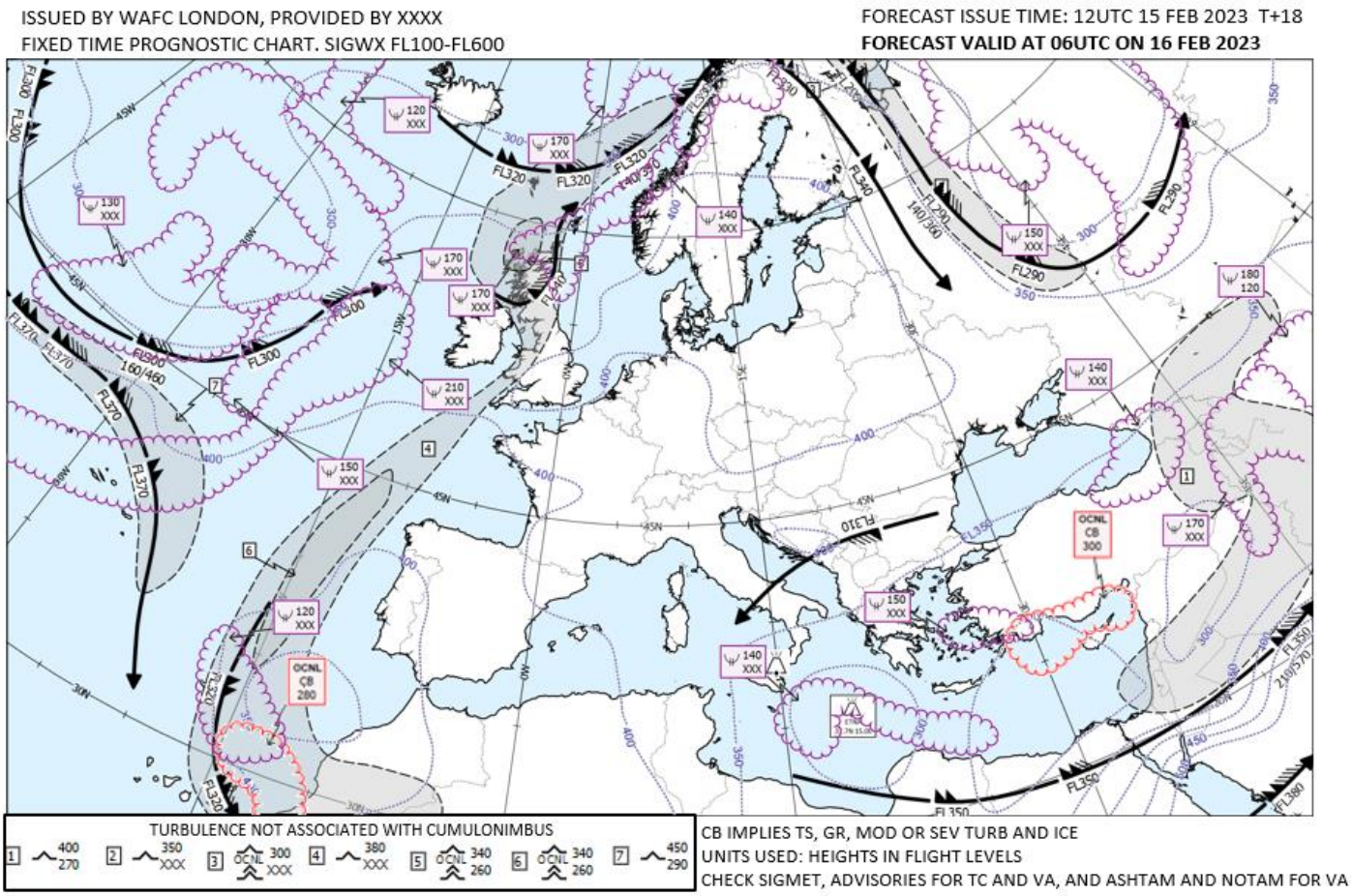
In early July 2024 the WAFS SIGWX products will be changing as the World Area Forecast Centres introduce multi-timestep SIGWX forecasts that spans FL100 to FL600 for the first time.

The following forecast time-steps will be produced:

T+6, T+9, T+12, T+15, T+18, T+21, T+24, T+27, T+30, T+33, T+36, T+39, T+42 and T+48.



IWXXM FORMAT

The new SIGWX forecasts will be provided in IWXXM format.

Test data sets are updated regularly and available here: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/transport/aviation/regulated/wafs-sigwx-test-data

IWXXM schema information is available here: https://schemas.wmo.int/iwxxm/2023-1RC1/

VISUALISING THE NEW SIGWX DATA

Users should set up their systems to visualise the IWXXM data, and allow individual layers to be toggled on and off. Existing SIGWX display conventions mostly still apply.

Suggested visualisation colour scheme:

- Jet Stream – black
- Tropopause contours (NEW) – blue dashed line
- Turbulence areas – black dashed outer line, shaded grey
- Cumulonimbus areas – red scalloped line (no CB base info)
- Icing areas – purple scallops
- Volcano and tropical cyclone markers – black or red.

A set of three charts will be provided to enable users to check their systems are visualising the SIGWX data properly. These are not to be used for flight briefing documents.

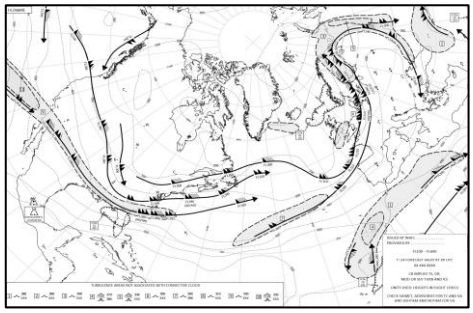
Flight briefing documents need to be created from the IWXXM data sets according to local user requirements.

NOAA Met Office

IMPORTANT: The following medium level SIGWX forecast data sets will be retired in July 2024

Charts
PGNE14 KKCI (NAT)
PGZE14 EGRR (ASIA SOUTH)
PGDE14 EGRR (EURO)
PGCE14 (MEA)

SWM BUFR
JUJE00 EGRR/KKCI
JUME00 EGRR/KKCI
JUNE00 EGRR/KKCI
JUOE00 EGRR/KKCI
JUTE00 EGRR/KKCI



If you have questions please e-mail your service provider: wifs.admin@noaa.gov or SADISManager@metoffice.gov.uk

Data available on SADIS FTP and WIFS after July 2024

T+24 (SWH) BUFR Data
JUBE99, JUCE00, JUVE00, JUWE96, JUFE00, JUTE97 EGRR and KKCI files.
Note: data will be labelled as SWH but will encompass FL100 to FL600. The JUTE97 tropopause file will not contain data as BUFR cannot handle tropopause contour data.

T+24 png format charts
PGEE05 KKCI (Area A), PGSE05 EGRR (Area B), PGIE05 KKCI (Area B1), PGRE05 EGRR (Area C), PGZE05 EGRR (Area D), PGGE05 EGGR (Area E), PGGE05 KKCI (Area F), PGCE05 EGRR (Area G), PGAE05 EGRR (Area H), PGAE05 KKCI (Area H), PGBE05 KKCI (Area I), PGJE05 KKCI (Area J), PGKE05 EGRR (Area K), PGDE29 KKCI (Area M)

There will be some changes to the appearance of the png charts:

- They will be valid for FL100 to FL600
- CB bases will not be shown
- tropopause spot heights will become contours
- turbulence areas will look a little different and will include orographic turbulence as well as CAT.

IMPORTANT: The BUFR data sets will be retired in July 2026, and the png format charts will be retired in 2028.

HOW TO GET THE NEW SIGWX DATA

By the end of 2023 the WAFC's intend to invite SADIS and WIFS users to try out the SIGWX element of the SADIS API or the WIFS API. This beta service will be available until the go live data in July 2024.

Both WAFC's are working together to provide a consistent API offering. It will use the framework of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Environmental Data Retrieval API https://ogcapi.ogc.org/edr/ and will be SWIM compliant.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO

1. Make sure that your software provider is aware of the upcoming changes and make sure that their software will be able to visualise the IWXXM data.
2. Try to visualise the test IWXXM data sets that have been provided.
3. Make the relevant teams in your organisation aware of the need to download data from the SADIS API or WIFS API systems.
4. Look out for the announcements by WAFC London and WAFC Washington inviting you to try out the new SADIS API or WIFS API beta systems in late 2023 or early 2024

Note: The SADIS API and WIFS API that delivers WAFS gridded data sets will use the same API technology and will be available for operational use from November 2024.