WAFS Change Implementation Notice Board (V49, last updated 18 April 2024)

Deliverable No.	Posting Date of Deliverable	Summary of Change	Magnitude of Change	Impact on End Users UPCOMING CHANGES	Implementation Schedule	Latest Status Report
50	18/04/2024	New multi timestep SIGWX forecasts introduced - new IWXXM format - T+6 to T+48 at 3-hourly intervals	MAJOR	Users will need to register to use the new SADIS API to access the data and set up their systems to ingest and then		In progress
51	18/04/2024	Changes to T+24 SIGWX forecasts on SADIS FTP	MAJOR	There will be changes to the content of the T+24 PNG charts and T+24 BUFR files. Embedded CB clouds will no longer be included and tropopause height will be depicted as contours. Medium level SIGWX will no longer include in-cloud turbulence and icing as a combined field.		On target

		HISTORICAL CHANGES								
49	05/11/2020	Introduction of SADIS API containing higher resolution WAFS data sets.	MAJOR	Minor impact on end users as to access the new data requires access to the new SADIS API.	19-Mar-24	Complete				
		Increase to 0.25 degree resolution of all data sets T+6 to T+24 at 1-hourly intervals, T+27 to T+48 at 3-hourly intervals and 6-hourly intervals to T+120 Data at 1000ft vertical intervals using exact pressure level values								

48	05/11/2020	New fields introduced at 0.25 degree horizontal resolution as per ICAO Annex 3 Amendment 79: - Turbulence Severity, uses the Graphical Turbulence Guidance algorigthms and providing output as Eddy Dissipation Rate. Able to forecast both orographic and clear air turbulence - 0.25 degree Icing Severity, gives a categorical forecast of icing intensity - Cumulonimbus extent, base and top	MAJOR	Small impact on end users as it's a new data set, but will require users to update their systems to be able to visualise it.	5th November 2020.	Complete
47	05/11/2020	Retirement of 1.25 degree WAFS Hazard data sets	MAJOR	Retirement of the following 1.25 degree horizontal resolution fields (as superceded by higher resolution equivalents): - Clear Air Turbulence mean/max - Icing Potential mean/max - Cumulonimbus extent/base/top - In-cloud tubulence mean/max	In-cloud turbulence retired in November 2020. Remaining fields retired on 24 January 2024.	Complete
46	23/02/2016	Additional WAFC GRIB2 levels	MAJOR	Additional data for wind, temperature, and geopotential height for FL080. FL210 and FL480. Additional humidity data for FL080.	Revised implementation date of 26 January 2017. This is considered minor since no modifications to software are expected. In the rare event that incomplete datasets are presented at the cut-off times, the files will be updated when remaining data becomes	Complete
45		6 month trial of low level forecasts in graphical format on Secure SADIS FTP	MINOR	EUR Low level forecasts in graphical format that comply with specified conditions will be made available on SADIS FTP. Considered minor since data will be made available in a new folder. This should not have an impact on existing software. It is recommended that developers only modify development/test systems during this trial. Note March 2020 - no longer restricted to only EUR products.	Trial exteded until at least 2024	Ongoing

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44	23/02/2016	Revised methodology for presenting concatenated WAFS GRIB2 data to Secure SADIS FTP	MINOR	Concatenated WAFS GRIB2 data will be presented to Secure SADIS FTP folders when either a) all data is available; b) cut-off times of T+4hrs 20min (for wind, temp, gph, humidity) or T+4hrs 50min (CB cloud, icing, turbulence) have been reached. This only affects the WAFS data presented to the GRIB2 folders.	Revised implementation date of 26 January 2017. This is considered minor since no modifications to software are expected. In the rare event that incomplete datasets are presented at the cut-off times, the files will be updated when remaining data becomes available. This is, in effect, no different from current behaviour.	Deliverable Complete.
43	23/02/2016	Deletion of files from Secure SADIS FTP	MINOR	Deletion of: 'LAST_18_HOURS_DATA' file.	Deleted at 1200 UTC 06 April 2016.	Deliverable Complete.
42	23/02/2016	Cessation of SADIS 2G - 31 July 2016	MAJOR	Existing SADIS 2G users are encouraged to migrate to the Secure SADIS FTP service at the earliest opportunity.	SADIS 2G withdrawn at 1200 UTC on 31 July 2016.	Deliverable Complete.
41	14/02/2014	Implementation of re-issuance policy with regard to WAFS SIGWX and WAFS GRIB2 data	MAJOR	The WAFCs will re-issue, under agreed circumstances, WAFS SIGWX and GRIB2 data should the original issue of the data be subject to error or corruption. The WAFCs will make use of the 'BBB' section of the WMO AHL. More details will be made available by the WAFCs as necessary.	by WAFC London. Implemented 16	Deliverable Complete.
40	14/02/2014	Provide WAFS GRIB2 cumulonimbus cloud, icing and turbulence data with minimum delay after wind, temperature, humidity and geopotential altitude data	MINOR	The WAFC will make WAFS GRIB2 cumulonimbus cloud, icing and turbulence data available on Secure SADIS FTP and WIFS by T+4hrs and 35mins.	12-Mar-14	Deliverable Complete.
39	11/12/2012	Introduction of WAFS Upper Air Forecasts (WMO GRIB edition 2) for FL410 (u component of wind, v component of wind, temperature and geopotential height).	MINOR	Additional WMO Abbreviated Header Lines are currently being agreed, and will be notified separately.	Effective 0000 UTC Thursday 14th November 2013.	Deliverable Complete.

38	11/12/2012	Removal of 'Trial' label in relation to WAFS Upper Air Forecasts of cumulonimbus cloud, icing and turbulence.	MINOR	The WAFS Upper Air Forecasts of cumulonimubs, icing and turbulence will no longer be classed as 'trial' products effective 0000 UTC Thursday 14 November 2013. Changes to Secure SADIS FTP and WIFS folder structures will be necessary, and the new data is expected to be distributed over SADIS 2G (subject to endorsement by SADISOPSG).	Preliminary changes to Secure SADIS FTP folder structure August 2013. Full implementatione effective 0000 UTC Thursday 14th November 2013.	Deliverable Complete.
37	11/12/2012	Withdrawal of WAFS Upper Air Forecasts in the WMO GRIB Edition 1 format	MAJOR	the WMO GRIB Edition 1 format must		Deliverable Complete.
32	18/04/2011	Training requirements for the new gridded forecasts in light of the development of the updated guidance on the interpretation of the forecasts	MINOR	WAFC Provider States develop a paper, in time for WAFSOPSG/7 meeting, to review the training requirements for the new gridded forecasts in light of the development of the updated guidance on the interpretation of the forecasts	Present to WAFSOPSG/7 (Sep 2012)	Deliverable Complete.
36	07/08/2012	Adjustment of WAFS GRIB1 availability times.	MINOR	The WAFCs will make GRIB1 data available on WIFS/Secure SADIS FTP/SADIS FTP as soon as possible after the production of GRIB2. On WIFS and Secure SADIS FTP/SADIS FTP it is anticipated that GRIB1 forecasts will be posted within 25 minutes of GRIB2 being made available. Availability of GRIB1 data over SADIS 2G will continue to be made available 4hrs 30mins to 5hrs 00 mins after model data time.	Effective from the 1200 UTC Model Data Time on 4th October 2012	Deliverable Complete.

35		Production of harmonised trial CB Cloud, icing and turbulence forecasts	MINOR	and turbulence forecasts in GRIB2 format with effect from the 1200 UTC Model Data Time on Tuesday 29th November 2011. Existing WMO AHLs will be used, so no changes to end user systems are expected. The harmonised forecasts will only be made available over WIFS, SADIS FTP and Secure SADIS FTP and will be available by approximately 5 hours 30 minutes after Model Data Time. Non-harmonised versions of the data will not be made available, except as contingency to the harmonised products. All other WAFS Upper Air Forecasts in GRIB2 format are unaffected by this change.	November 2011	
34	18/04/2011	Re-prioritization of GRIB1 and GRIB2 WAFS Upper Air Forecasts	MAJOR	Users will receive GRIB2 WAFS Upper Air Forecasts before GRIB1 WAFS Upper Air Forecasts. GRIB1 Upper Air Forecasts will become secondary in delivery priority to GRIB2.	GRIB1 and GRIB2 data sets on	Deliverable Complete.
33	18/04/2011	Use of 'OCNL CB' in High Level Significant Weather Forecasts (BUFR and PNG).	MINOR	Should be minimal but users to check with vendors that BUFR decoders and visualisations will correctly display. (See WAFSOPSG/6 IP 7 and final Report).	To be implemented with effect from the 1200 UTC Data Time (DT) SIGWX Forecasts on Wednesday 15th June 2011 (i.e. effective for SIGWX forecasts valid 1200 UTC Thursday 16th June 2011, and issued 1900 UTC 15th June 2011).	Deliverable Complete.
31	18/04/2011	Guidance on the interpretation of the WAFC forecasts for cb clouds, icing and turbulence	MINOR	WAFC Provider States to present guidance on the interpretation of the WAFC forecasts for CB clouds, icing and turbulence to WAFSOPSG/7	Present to WAFSOPSG/7 (Sep 2012)	Deliverable Complete. Updated guidance posted on the WAFSOPSG Website on 11 September 2012'

30	28/02/2011	Cessation of ISCS	MAJOR	Effective 01 July 2012 (01/07/12) the International Satellite Communication System (ISCS) broadcast will be terminated. ISCS users can now obtain WAFS products and OPMET data from the WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS). ISCS users should note that WIFS only provides access to WAFS data and OPMET data listed in the SADIS User Guide Annexes 1 and 4, for flight planning purposes. ISCS authorized users are strongly recommended to transition to WIFS at the earliest date and no later than 01 March 2012 to ensure their workstation has access to WIFS when ISCS is terminated. See https://aviationweather.gov/wifs/		Deliverable Complete.
29	28/02/2011	WAFC London to introduce new SIGWX Charts	INTERMEDIATE	WAFC London is due to replace its existing SIGWX Production Platform on 11 October 2011. On implementation the size of PNGs and map areas covered will be identical between WAFC London and WAFC Washington, making backup events (real or test) transparent. Users can view/download samples of the new charts via: ftp.metoffice.gov.uk; username collect_new_wafc; password see_data.	Implementaton, expected 11 October 2011, with effect from the SIGWX forecasts issued 1245- 1300 UTC, and with validity of 0600 UTC on 12 October 2011. Please regularly check this web page.	Deliverable Complete.
28		Cessation of experimental, 'trial and evaluation' cb, ice, and turbulence parameters in GRIB1 form	MINOR		Cessation due as of 18 November 2010	Deliverable Complete.

7	22/08/2010	Provision of WAFS Aviation	MAJOR	In accordance with the coming into	Preliminary transmissions may	Deliverable Complete.
		GRIB2 data via SADIS 2G and		effect of ICAO Annex 3, Amendment	commence from Tuesday 9th	· ·
		ISCS		75 (18th November 2010), and	November. Operational	
				endorsement by SADISOPSG for the	transmissions will be available from	
				provision of GRIB2 over SADIS 2G,	18th November 2010.	
				WAFC London Aviation GRIB2 will be		
				made operationally available via		
				SADIS 2G and WAFC Washington		
				Aviation GRIB2 will be made		
				operationally available via ISCS on		
				18th November 2010. WAFCs may		
				commence preliminary transmissions		
				from Tuesday 9th November in		
				advance of the operationally available		
				date of 18th November as required by		
				Annex 3. Note 1: WAFS Aviation		
				GRIB2 data will be issued after WAFS		
				Aviation GRIB1 data (approximately 1		
				hour later). Note 2: Data for CB, icing		
				and turbulence will not be available		
				initially via satellite, until endorsed by		
				WAFSOPSG for transmission. CB,		
				icing and turbulence data is available -		
				for trial and evaluation purposes - via		
				SADIS FTP and WIFS.		
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6	06/04/2010	Change to Legend details in	MINOR	In accordance with the WAFSOPSG/5	The change to procedure will be	Deliverable Complete.
		WAFS GRIB data			implemented during the 17th	
					November 2010, to be compliant	
				Amendment 75 (18th November 2010),		
					2010.	
				visualised WAFS Aviation GRIB1 and	2010.	
				GRIB2 data to indicate the issuer of		
				the data (WAFC London or WAFC		
				Washington), and the Provider. In		
				addition, there are changes to the		
				precise terminology used in the Legend		
				Boxes. WAFS Aviation GRIB1 and		
				GRIB2 data does not contain 'Provider'		
				data, nor does it contain Legend		
				details. Workstation Vendors have		
				been contacted separately to		
				implement the changes to their		
				systems in order to be compliant with		
				the new Legends format. See Section		
				6.2.3 in		
				http://www2.icao.int/en/anb/met-		
				aim/met/wafsopsg/WAFSOPSG%20M		
				eeting%20Metadata/WAFSOPSG.5%2		
				0Report%20-%20complete.pdf		

25		Change to WAFC Legend details in WAFS SIGWX PNG charts	MINOR	, ,	implemented during the 17th November 2010, to be compliant	Deliverable Complete.
24	16/11/2009	Alignment of WAFC SIGWX BUFR PNG Chart data	MAJOR	data for Medium Level BUFR and for all PNG charts such that, under normal operations, Medium Level BUFR and all PNG Charts will be issued one hour earlier than currently, and as such at the same time as the existing High	The change to procedure will be implemented with effect from the first forecasts issued at approximately 1855 UTC on 15 June 2010. Because of the lead time of the forecasts the first forecasts to be so affected will carry a validity time of 1200 UTC 16 June 2010.	Deliverable Complete.

23	19/06/2009	WAFC web services	MAJOR	One web-based service to be provided by each WAFC. Users will be able to access a minimal set of WAFS charts, providing objective forecasts of automated gridded icing, turbulence and CB, derived from GRIB 2. Service targeted primarily at LDC members.	Superceded by deliverable No.31	Superceded by deliverable No.31
22	19/06/2009	Web-based training package	MINOR	WAFCs to deliver a web-based training package for WAFS users on the intended use and visualisation of gridded WAFS forecasts for icing, turbulence and CB.	Superceded by deliverable No.32	Superceded by deliverable No.32
21	19/06/2009	GRIB 2 WAFS data on ISCS and SADIS FTP services	MAJOR	providers will be able to access GRIB 2 upper-air data for use in flight planning. GRIB2 will be provided in parallel with	and turbulence), will be available via SADIS FTP and WIFS only as of 2nd March 2010.	Deliverable Complete.
20	11/06/2008	Cessation of the SADIS 1G broadcast service	MAJOR	SADIS 1G service will be terminated in January 2009 in view of the implementation of SADIS 2G. Any	SADIS 1G termination scheduled for Monday 5th January 2009 between 1030 UTC and 1230 UTC. Notification message issued to all SADIS users on 10 June 2008. Reminder notices issued from 01 September 2008. SADIS 2G and SADIS FTP NOT affected by this change.	Deliverable Complete.

19	09/06/2008	WAFS administrative message per WAFSOPSG Decision 4/5	MINOR	administrative message to note any problems or errors with SIGWX	Implementation originally expected by WAFSOPSG/5 (September 2009). After temporary delay, finally endorsed by WAFSOPSG/5	Deliverable Complete.
18	19/02/08	V4.1 of BUFR Guidelines document issued	MINOR		Document released to ICAO on 17 Dec 2007 after final reviews by both WAFCs.	Deliverable Complete.
17	01/06/07	Changes to the labeling of unnamed TCs on SIGWX	MINOR	Tropical Depressions), less than 34 knots, that are forecast to become	Implement 07 November 2007 in conjunction with Annex 3 (for SIGWX forecasts valid 0000 UTC 07 November 2007).	Deliverable complete.
16	27/04/07 Updated posting 19/02/08.	Changes to WAFS SIGWX Chart Legend Box in line with WAFSOPSG Conclusion 3/3.	MAJOR	software to depict correct SIGWX Legend Box correctly after the	Implement 07 November 2007 in conjunction with Annex 3 (for SIGWX forecasts valid 0000 UTC 07 November 2007).	Deliverable complete.

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15	30/03/07	V4.0 of BUFR Guidelines	MINOR		Document released to ICAO on 22	Deliverable complete.
		document issued			March 2007 after final reviews by	
				charts. Reference to availability of	both WAFCs.	
				WAFC Washington BUFR data on		
				SADIS and ISCS broadcasts, and		
				withdrawal of reference to NWS FTP		
				server. Reference to operational		
				products on SADIS FTP. Changes to		
				legend box depiction under ICAO		
				Annex 3 Amendment 74 proposals.		
				Adoption of flight-level specific jet		
				depth information/depiction. ICAO		
				Annex 3 Amendment proposed		
				changes to depiction of surface fronts		
				and intertropical convergence zones		
				(SWH and SWM), and non-CB cloud		
				amount and type (SWM). Update to		
				contact details. (Note: V4.0 of this		
				document supercedes earlier versions		
				of this document.)		
				or this document.)		
14	20/11/06.	Removal of surface fronts and	MAJOR	1) SWH and SWM forecasts will no	Implement 07 November 2007 in	Deliverable complete.
	Updated	well-defined convergence zones		longer contain these elements. 2)	conjunction with Annex 3 (for	
	posting	(e.g., ITCZ) from the SWH and		BUFR files JUJE00 EGRR, JUJE00	SIGWX forecasts valid 0000 UTC	
	19/02/08.	SWM forecasts. Removal of non-		•	07 November 2007).	
	13/02/00.	CB cloud distribution (type and		KKCI will continue to be sent, but	or November 2007).	
		coverage) from the SWM		•		
1	1	forecasts.		contain no data (i.e. they will be empty		
		TOTECASTS.		bulletins). Workstation software should		
				not need to be changed to		
				accommodate these empty files. 3)		
				Users should not need to acquire		
				upgraded software to depict SIGWX		
	1			correctly after the implementation date.		

13	27/10/06	Provision of WAFC London thinned GRIB encoded forecasts of icing, turbulence and convective clouds on the SADIS FTP service.	from the SADIS FTP service (GRIB folder, sub-directory ice_turb_CB), and assess the utility of these trial and evaluation products using appropriate	WAFC London thinned GRIB encoded forecasts of icing, turbulence and convective cloud are now available from the SADIS FTP server (with effect 25th October 2006).	Deliverable complete.
12	27/10/06. Updated posting 19/02/08.	Advancement of the lead time of WAFS SIGWX forecasts	issued 17 hours before valid time. SWM forecasts in BUFR format, SWH	Implement on Wednesday 06 February 2008 for products issued at 1900 UTC with validity 1200 UTC on Thursday 07 February 2008.	Deliverable complete.
11	20/03/06 Posted 20 March 2006	V3.0 of BUFR Guidelines document issued		Document released to ICAO on 17 March 2006 after final reviews by both WAFCs.	Deliverable complete. Document available on the WAFSOPSG web site on 17 March 2006. (Note: V3.0 of this document supercedes earlier versions of this document.) .

10	29/029/05 Posted 6 October 2005	V2.8 of BUFR Guidelines document issued	number of editorial improvements and guidance covering the new depiction of	vendors on 4 October 2005, and	Deliverable complete.
9	01/08/05	V2.7 of BUFR Guidelines document issued		V2.7 of document now superceded by version 2.8 (V2.8) which is available from ICAO WAFSOPSG web site.	Deliverable complete.
8	12/7/2005 Posted 29 September 2005	Addition of PNG formatted WAFS SIGWX charts to SADIS broadcasts (1G and 2G)	formatted charts from the SADIS satellite broadcasts and assess the utility of these experimental products. Users are urged to inform the WAFCs and ICAO about the usefulness of these charts. If these products are not considered useful then they may be withdrawn. Users will need to remove	Products derived by WAFC London added to the broadcasts on 13 July 2005. Products derived by WAFC Washington added to the broadcast on 28 September 2005, except SWM chart covering area 'NAT' which was added on 30 September 2005. Note deliverable 4 - PNG formatted charts also available from the SADIS FTP Server	·

7		Removal of FL530 WAFS GRIB data from SADIS broadcast	reception facility and data processing facility will not be adversely affected by the removal of the following products from the SADIS broadcasts: HH(I-P)(B-	then withdrawn until further notice,	It is anticipated that FL530 data will continue to be broadcast on all SADIS services until further notice. Deliverable Complete
6		Revision to the format used to display jet depth information on WAFS SIGWX charts	BUFR visualisation software that can	Implementation planned for July 2006. Guidance material made available to workstation vendors on 4 October 2005.	Implementation delayed from March 2006. Now postponed to 26 July 2006. (Posted 23 February 2006). Deliverable Complete 26 July 2006.
5	17/06/05. Updated 19/02/08	Distribute available ASHTAMs and NOTAMs related to volcanic ash on the WAFS broadcasts		Service on 9 March 2006 as a result of some OPMET bulletins being incorrectly routed to the AFTN address reserved for the ASHTAM and volcanic ash NOTAM messages. The service will be	The NWXX01 EGRR collective containing all ASHTAM and volcanic ash NOTAM information is received from the UK Met Office and provided on the ISCS broadcast service. Since the NWXX01 EGRR collective contains all ASHTAM and NOTAM information from arounnd the globe, the U.S. has no plan to generate a similar collective. Deliverable Complete.
4	Posted 6	Provision of WAFS SIGWX charts in the PNG (portable network graphics) format on the SADIS FTP server.	Users are invited to download the charts from the SADIS FTP server, and assess the utility of these experimental products. Users are urged to inform the WAFCs and ICAO about the usefulness of these charts. If these products are not considered useful by the users then they may be removed from the broadcasts towards the end of 2006.	are now available from the SADIS	"Unbulletinized" versions of the WAFC Washington charts were added to the server on 3 October 2005. ("Bulletinized" = PNG formatted charts with a WMO telecommunications envelope wrapped around the PNG data; "Unbulletinized" = PNG formatted chart with no header assigned.) Deliverable Complete.
3		Cessation of WAFS T4 SIGWX charts (SWH and SWM) on the WAFS broadcasts	BUFR encoded data provided by both	be removed from the SADIS and	On schedule (posted 01 February 2006). WAFSOPSG/3 re-affirmed the cessation of T4 SIGWX on the WAFS broadcasts 30 November 2006. Deliverable Complete.

I		Implementation of BUFR encoded SWM data	visualisation software. Review WAFS SIGWX chart production processes and, if required, train staff accordingly.	from 6 April 2005. Contact Richard Orrell (richard.orrell@metoffice.gov.uk) for	WAFC Washington BUFR encoded SWM data available on 30 June 2005 (posted 3 May 2005). WAFC Washington (KKCI) BUFR encoded SWM data added to SADIS services (incl. FTP service) on 6 July 2005. Deliverable Complete.
	Posted 30	Cessation of WAFS T4 Wind & Temperature Charts from WAFS broadcasts	the WAFS GRIB encoded data provided by both WAFCs. Appropriate visualisation software will be required	charts will be removed from SADIS and ISCS broadcasts on 1 July 2005. Charts will be removed from SADIS FTP Service on 30	On schedule (posted 17 June 2005) Implemented on SADIS 1G and 2G broadcasts (posted 12 July 2005) Charts withdrawn on SADIS FTP Service on 30 September 2005. No further extension is anticipated. Deliverable Complete.