



International Civil Aviation Organization
CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS)
**Eleventh Meeting of the GREPECAS Aeronautical Meteorology Subgroup
(AERMETSG/11)**
Lima, Peru, 28 to 30 November 2011

Agenda Item 2: Review the status of implementation of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) in the CAR/SAM Regions

CHANGES TO ACCESSING WIFS

(Presented by United States)

SUMMARY

This Working Paper conveys changes that WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) users may need to make to access WIFS. This paper also reports that the WIFS User guide is available in Spanish.

1. Introduction

1.1 WIFS is operational and currently permits WIFS users to access the three individual WIFS services via their site-specific URL. However, the WIFS Service provider has migrated the WIFS service to a common National Weather System (NWS) infrastructure that simplifies access to WIFS services. This migration requires the WIFS users to modify their WIFS software to use one common URL.

2. Discussion

2.1 The subgroup will recall Draft Conclusion 10/03 which stated:

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CONCLUSION 10/03 - WIFS USER GUIDE**

That,

- a) the WAFC Washington Provider State be invited to consider the possibility of providing the WIFS User Guide also in Spanish; and
- b) if the request in paragraph a) is not possible, ICAO take the necessary actions for the translation of the referred guide.”

2.2 The subgroup will be pleased to note that the WIFS User Guide is available in Spanish. Both English and Spanish versions of the WIFS User Guide can be found under the Documents tab on the WIFS Support website at <http://www.aviationweather.gov/wifs> and are also posted at the ICAO NACC Website under e-documents.

2.3 In all of the prior versions of the WIFS Users Guide up to and including V4.0, under the Data Retrieval Process section, WIFS users were instructed that they could bypass a universal load-balancer and were designated a primary WIFS server based upon the first letter of their State name. If their primary WIFS server was unavailable then WIFS users should employ a round-robin approach to access data off one of the two other WIFS servers.

2.4 Starting in V4.1 of the WIFS Users Guide, under Section 5 Data Retrieval Process, WIFS users are now instructed to access WIFS services using a single common URL (www.aviationweather.gov/wifs/data) as the server-specific URLs are being taken out-of-service.

2.5 The WIFS Users Guide also instructs the users to access the WIFS Advisory page on the WIFS Support Web-site (www.aviationweather.gov/wifs) for the latest information on this issue. (See figure below).

2.6 It should also be noted that WIFS users should periodically access the WIFS Advisories page for any interim updates to the WIFS Users Guide. Interim updates that impact the way users access WIFS services will be posted on this WIFS support website page before being rolled into the WIFS Users Guide.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the WIFS Internet File Service (WIFS) website. The page title is "WIFS Internet File Service (WIFS) Aviation Weather Center CAWS System". The navigation menu includes "Home", "News", "Organization", "Search", and "Go". Below the navigation menu are tabs for "Description", "Documents", "Products", "Support", "Vendors", "WIFS Transition", "Advisories", and "Contact Us". The main content area displays a deprecation notice dated "27 April 2011" titled "DEPRECATION OF SITE-SPECIFIC URLS". The notice states that the following site-specific URLs are being deprecated: <https://hq.aviationweather.gov/wifs/data>, <https://srh.aviationweather.gov/wifs/data>, and <https://crh.aviationweather.gov/wifs/data>. It also provides the new load balanced URL: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/wifs/data>. Below this notice, there is another notice dated "30 March 2011" titled "WIFS USERS GUIDE VERSION 4.1 IS AVAILABLE", and a notice dated "28 February 2011" titled "CHANGE TO GRIB ENCODING OF WAFS PRODUCTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2011".

2.7 In addition to interim updates being posted on the Advisories page, the WIFS service provider will also generate a WIFS Admin message (NOXX10 KKCI) containing the same information on the interim update to the WIFS Users Guide.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Given the above information, the following conclusion and decision are proposed:

DRAFT

CONCLUSION 11/XX

CURRENCY OF WIFS USER GUIDE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGES

That

- a) States be urged to use the single common URL (www.aviationweather.gov/wifs/data), and transit to the common URL as soon as possible if still.
- b) States be reminded of their responsibility to monitor administrative messages on WIFS and that they should periodically access the WIFS Advisories page for any interim updates to the WIFS Users Guide for changes in the operations of WIFS.

3. Action required

4.1 The subgroup is invited to:

- a) consider the information presented in this working paper;
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate, and
- c) endorse the above draft conclusion.

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