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World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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Our ref.: 37992/2017/OBS/WIS/DRMM/DRC/WIGOS/ID

30 October 2017

Annex: 1

Subject: Reporting of WIGOS Station identifier in BUFR/CREX messages

Action required: To refer to the guidelines for introducing the WIGOS Station identifier in FM 94 BUFR and FM 95 CREX messages

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to the Annex to [Resolution 26 \(Cg-17\)](#), by which the WIGOS Station Identifier (WSI) was defined in the Attachment 2.1 of the *Manual on the WIGOS (WMO-No. 1160)*. On 3 May 2017, the WSI was introduced as a Table D entry in FM 94 BUFR/FM 95 CREX through the amendments to the *Manual on Codes (WMO-No. 306)* by the fast-track procedure.

The first meeting of the CBS Inter-Programme Expert Team on Codes Maintenance (IPET-CM) took place from 24 to 28 July 2017. The IPET-CM highlighted the risk from underestimating the impact of introduction of the WSI, which has the potential to impact all systems tasked with processing and storage of observational data with traditional station identifiers.

Keeping the above in mind, the IPET-CM recognized necessity of guidelines to report the WSI in BUFR and CREX messages so as not to create additional difficulty in existing processing and storage systems. It therefore proposed to remind WMO Members of procedural and technical guidelines, which are specified in the Annex to this letter.

The president of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) has endorsed the guidelines proposed by the IPET-CM in consultation with the chairperson of the Open Programme Area Group on Information Systems and Services (OPAG-ISS).

I am confident that the guidelines will be of great help when you plan to introduce WIGOS Station Identifiers in BUFR and CREX messages.

Yours faithfully,

(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

Ref.: 37992/2017-14 OBS-WIS/DRMM

Guidelines to introduce the WIGOS Station Identifier in BUFR and CREX messages

[Where to place]

- (1) When Members report data using BUFR/CREX templates defined in B/C Regulations (Section d, Part C, Volume I.2 of the Manual on Codes) or other BUFR/CREX sequences suitable for reporting specific data sets and include the WSI, the sequence for reporting WSI (3 01 150) should be placed before the BUFR/CREX templates or other BUFR/CREX sequences in BUFR/CREX messages.

The full version of the Manual on Codes and its update with regard to the WSI are available from:

www.wmo.int/WMOCodes/WMO306_vI2/Volumel.2.html

www.wmo.int/WMOCodes/Amendments/2017/fastTrack/FT2017-1_en.pdf

[How to encode]

- (2) When Members report data from observation sites that have traditional station identifiers, such as WMO block number (0 01 001)/WMO station number (0 01 002) and buoy platform identifier (0 01 005), they should also be reported in addition to corresponding WSI (3 01 150), to ensure the continuity of data use. On the other hand, the traditional station identifiers should be reported as "missing" when observation sites do not have the traditional identifiers.

[Versions applicable]

- (3) BUFR/CREX messages that include the sequence for reporting WSI (3 01 150) should have master table version number 28 or later, because the sequence 3 01 150 is not defined in the tables with version numbers before 28.

[Advanced notification]

- (4) Members should issue advanced notification at least three months before they start distributing new reports that include both traditional station identifier and WSI (3 01 150), clearly stating the date of change, WSI, corresponding traditional station identifiers (when available), and new and existing bulletin headings. All Members will be notified of these changes through METNO messages defined by the Manual on GTS and as an entry of [Operational Newsletter](#).

[Distribution not parallel]

- (5) Parallel distribution of BUFR/CREX messages with and without WSI (3 01 150), which consists of same contents, is discouraged, as the messages coded in conformity to the practice in (2) above, satisfies user requirements and duplicated reporting of same contents could cause confusion for users.
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