



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR
FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

SUITE 1500, 8455 COLESVILLE ROAD
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910

June 8, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Holders of Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 12, United States Meteorological Codes and Coding Practices

//SIGNED//

FROM: Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator for Meteorology

SUBJECT: Change 2 to Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 12
Effective July 1, 2012

The attached Change 2 to Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 12 (FMH-12), *United States Meteorological Codes and Coding Practices*, original publication, dated December 1998, consists of two additional paragraphs to a section in Part A: Atmospheric, Chapter 1, PILOT REPORTS. These changes codify reporting of sulfur dioxide associated with volcanic eruptions.

Attachment

Change 2
July 1, 2012

FEDERAL METEOROLOGICAL HANDBOOK NO. 12

UNITED STATES METEOROLOGICAL CODES AND CODING PRACTICES

Paragraph 1.4.1.12.h. Add the following at the end of the paragraph:

If the report is only for the smell of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), and no volcanic ash, enter VA into the WX section of the PIREP and place in remarks "SO2 NO ASH" or "SULFUR SMELL NO ASH". Reports for SO₂ and no ash cloud are treated as non-urgent PIREPs.

Paragraph 1.7.m. Change to read:

m. Volcanic Eruption, Ash, and/or Sulfur Dioxide. At 2010Z, the pilot of a McDonnell Douglas DC10 at 37,000 feet, 75 miles southwest of Anchorage, reports Mt. Augustine erupted at 2008Z. The pilot also reports an ash cloud 40 miles south of the volcano, moving south-southeast:

UUA/OV_PANC240075/TM_2010/FL370/TP_DC10/WX_VA/RM_VOLCANIC
ERUPTION_2008Z_MT_AUGUSTINE_ASH_40S_MOV_SSE

At 2010Z, the pilot of a McDonnell Douglas DC10 at 37,000 feet, 150 miles southeast of Anchorage, reports the smell of sulfur dioxide but no volcanic ash:

UA/OV_PANC160150/TM_2010/FL370/TP_DC10/WX_VA/RM_SO2 NO ASH