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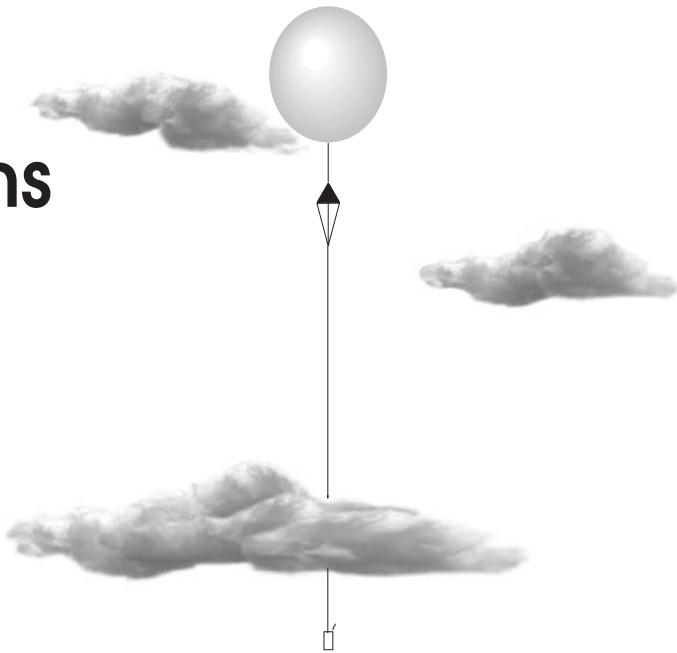


OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 3

Rawinsonde and Pibal Observations

FCM-H3-1997



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**FEDERAL METEOROLOGICAL HANDBOOK No. 3
RAWINSONDE AND PIBAL OBSERVATIONS**

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CHANGE AND REVIEW LOG

Use this page to record changes and notices of reviews.

Change Number	Page Numbers	Date Posted	Initial
1	Page 6-2	Effective August 1 st 2006	MMC
2			
3			
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Changes are indicated by a vertical line in the margin next to the change or by shading and strikeouts.

Review Date	Comments	Initial

FOREWORD

In 1987, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM) assumed responsibility for preparing and maintaining Federal Meteorological Handbooks. The task of accomplishing preparation and coordination of handbook No. 3 (FMH-3)—Radiosonde Observations and associated handbooks #4, 5, and 6, was assigned to the Ad Hoc Group for FMH-Upper Air (AHG/FMH-UA) through the Working Group for Upper Air Observations under the Committee for Basic Services (CBS).

This edition of FMH-3, "Rawinsonde and Pibal Observations," concludes a 5-year effort by the AHG/FMH-UA to meet the objectives outlined in guidance issued by CBS. Specifically, the CBS directed that the new FMH-3 should: (1) reflect our Nation's commitments to international organizations (i.e., WMO, ICAO); (2) integrate conventional and automatically observed data by adopting new standards for automated, augmented, and manual observations; (3) allow agencies to prepare and issue agency-specific procedures and instructions for taking and reporting upper air observations; and (4) combine FMHs 3, 4, 5, and 6 into a new FMH-3. In previous editions of the Federal Meteorological Handbooks, all procedures and internal agency instructions pertaining to upper air observations were described in FMHs 3 through 6. Beginning with this edition, FMH-3 will contain only Federal standards; it will not contain agency-specific procedures and practices.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts put forth by members of the AHG/FMH-UA, past as well as present, who diligently labored and persevered to produce this document. Interagency coordination, especially the establishment of new standards which have impacts on policies and procedures, is an extremely difficult task and worthy of special recognition. I commend the AHG/FMH-UA members for their efforts.

Julian M. Wright, Jr.
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services
and Supporting Research

FEDERAL METEOROLOGICAL HANDBOOK NO. 3
RAWINSONDE AND PIBAL OBSERVATIONS

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