

## APPENDIX A - SECTION 1

### Glossary

Accuracy	The degree of conformity of a measured or calculated value to some recognized standard or specified value.
Analysis	The process of interpreting and collating independent data to obtain a comprehensive definition of the state of the environment.
Block	A string of records, a string of words, or a character string, formed for technical or logic reasons to be treated as an entity.
Byte	Eight contiguous bits (an octet).
Call Letters	A location identifier expressed as a string of alphabetic characters.
Code	A set of items, such as abbreviations, numbers, or string of alphanumeric characters, that represent the members of another set of items. For example, the PI SET is a code that represents the geographical background to be used with a product. The term is also used to describe a string of alphanumeric characters whose structure conveys meaningful information as in weather reporting codes.
Decode	To convert data by reversing the effect of encoding.
Element	The smallest intelligible component of a product, e.g., wind speed, wind direction, a four character mnemonic that defines a parameter, symbol, etc.
Element Set	A collection of two or more elements related to a component of a product, e.g., a weather observation (report), group of vectors describing a graphic line, etc.
Environment	A general term describing three physical areas: the terrestrial environment (the earth itself), the atmospheric environment (the area above the surface of the earth where weather phenomena occur), and the space environment (the area extending from approximately the bottom of the ionosphere to the sun).

Encode To convert data by the use of a code or a code character set in such a manner that reconversion to the original form is possible.

Field A bounded collection of data. This term will normally be used with a descriptive adjective that defines the nature of the field, e.g., Gridded Data Field, product identification field, etc.

File Time The date and time (zulu) a message is made available for transmission purposes.

Flag A bit, combination of bits, or a character, used to indicate a class of information, a step in a program, or some classification of a value (commonly used for branching).

Forecast A prediction of the future state of the environment.

Grid A system of uniformly spaced points referenced to the physical surface of the earth. A grid may be in the form of uniformly spaced latitude and longitude points with the spacing expressed in degrees or in the form of an array of points with rows designated by an integer (I), columns designated by an integer (J), and spacing expressed in nautical miles, kilometers, or some other appropriate linear distance. The latter form of grid is usually referred to as an I/J grid.

I/J Grid I/J Grid is an array of points in a mapped representation of the earth surface and spaced at a uniform interval in the map. The points are referenced by an integer row number (I) and column number (J). There is a unique algorithm for reference to latitude/longitude from I/J depending on the map transformation formula (i.e., polar stereographic, mercator, Lambert conformal, etc.) and there is an algorithm for determining the true earth distance between grid points (which will in general vary over the map).

Image The visual depiction of information (e.g., a satellite picture or a vector graphic product displayed on a CRT).

Level A surface above the surface of the earth defined by the locus of points of equal atmospheric pressure. It is used in connection with upper air data which is reported at altitudes dependent on

the atmospheric pressure. A level is therefore a surface on which the pressure is everywhere the same.

Location Identifier	A number, or string, of A/N characters that identifies a geographic location (a shorthand notation for name of the location). Location identifiers are assigned by several different organizations (WMO, ICAO, etc.).
Model	An automated set of analysis or forecast algorithms that simulates the dynamics of the environment.
Observation	A collection of information describing weather conditions at a specified location within a specified area.
Octet	Eight contiguous bits (byte).
Precision	A measure of the ability to distinguish between nearly equal values. The degree of mutual agreement between individual measurements, namely repeatability and reproducibility.
Product	A collection of information (element sets) that completely defines a bounded group of related information.
Record	A collection of related data or words treated as a unit, e.g., a synoptic observation.
Rounding	When a figure is to be rounded to fewer digits than the total number available, the procedure should be as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. When the first digit discarded is less than five, the last digit retained should not be changed.</li><li>b. When the first digit discarded is five or greater, the last figure retained should be increased by one unit.</li></ol>
Set	A finite or infinite number of objects of any kind, or entities, (of components) or concepts, that have a given property or properties in common.