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PNSWSH

Technical Implementation Notice 12-38  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
810 AM EDT Thu Aug 23 2012

To:           Subscribers:  
              -Family of Services  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Timothy McClung  
              Chief, Science Plans Brach  
              Office of Science and Technology

Subject: GRIB2 Encoding Change to NCEP Products: Effective September 18,  
2012

On Tuesday, September 18, 2012, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will make a change to the gridded binary version 2 (GRIB2) encoding of the Haines Index (HINDEX) and Relative Humidity with respect to Precipitable Water (RHPW) fields. For the Haines Index (HINDEX), the GRIB2 parameter number will change from three (3) to two (2) to conform with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards. The Relative Humidity with respect to Precipitable Water currently is encoded as discipline 0, category 19. It will change to be encoded as discipline 0, category 1.

More details about NCEP's method of GRIB2 encoding are online at:  
[http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/docs/grib2/grib2\\_doc.shtml](http://www.nco.ncep.noaa.gov/pmb/docs/grib2/grib2_doc.shtml)

These two products are currently available in output files from many NCEP models including the Global Forecast System (GFS), North American Model (NAM), Short-Range Ensemble Forecast (SREF) and Rapid Update (RAP). The output from these models is available on the NWS and NCEP ftp servers. These fields are not sent to NOAAPort or to the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), so this change should not affect those users.

For questions regarding these changes, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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