

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-804**  
**AUGUST 26, 2003**

**Operations and Services**  
**Aviation Weather Services, NWSPD 10-8**

**PILOT REPORTS**

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**OPR:** OS23 (C. Weiss)

**Certified by:** OS23 (M. Andrews)

**Type of Issuance:** Routine

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** Supersedes NWSI 10-804, Pilot Reports, dated August 16, 2002. A change was made to section 2, second paragraph, indicating Center Weather Service Units may or may not receive pilot reports from FAA personnel for distribution.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

8/12/03 \_\_\_\_\_

Gregory A. Mandt

Date

Director, Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services

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**1. Purpose.** This instruction provides procedures for collection and dissemination of Pilot Reports (PIREP).

**2. Background.** PIREPs are observation reports made from the flight deck. As a result, they fill critical horizontal and vertical gaps in weather observation information for the aviation forecaster and they are value-added input to the National Airspace System. Because PIREP data is perishable, PIREPs must be entered into the NWS dissemination system as quickly as possible and delivered to the users without delay. To facilitate this requires close cooperation between NWS and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) personnel.

PIREPs are generated by pilots who report on air-ground radio to an FAA facility, where the report can be distributed by FAA personnel or passed directly to a Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) for distribution. Additionally, other channels for pilots to provide post-flight reports of conditions include FAA Automated Flight Service Stations (AFSS) and Weather Forecast Offices (WFO). Federal Aviation Regulations only require pilots to report any unforecast weather conditions encountered along with any other information relating to the safety of flight. Therefore, the success of the PIREP program largely depends on air traffic control specialists at FAA FSSs and field offices, CWSU meteorologists, and air traffic controllers who will both request and disseminate the reports.

**3. PIREP Retrieval and Dissemination.**

**3.1 PIREP Retrieval.** CWSUs will follow FAA orders 7110.10 Flight Services and 7110.65, En Route Air Traffic Control, which establishes procedures for the solicitation and relay of PIREPs.

National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) facilities such as the AWC, Tropical Prediction Center (TPC), and Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) may have special requirements for PIREPs on a seasonal or other basis. Coordination of these requests should be forwarded through the affiliated WFO to the FSS communications facilities. If additional broader coordination is required, such as on a national level, Aviation Services Branch (ASB), W/OS23, NWS Headquarters (NWSH) should be contacted for making arrangements.

**3.2 PIREP Dissemination and Priority.** Distribution procedures are contained in:

- a. Federal Meteorological Handbook (FMH) #12 Chapter 1, for instructions for encoding PIREPs for transmission.

- b. FAA Order 7110.10 (plus changes and General Notice to Aviators). These references contain instructions for proper transmission procedures.
- c. Dissemination priority of PIREPS is as follows:
  - (1) Urgent PIREPs contain information about tornadoes, funnel clouds, or waterspouts, severe or extreme turbulence (including Clear Air Turbulence), severe icing, hail, Low Level Wind Shear (LLWS) from surface - 2000 feet above ground level (reports of  $\geq 10$  knot air speed fluctuations - if no air speed fluctuation is reported, classify as Urgent), volcanic ash clouds, and any other weather phenomena reported which are considered by the pilot as being hazardous, or potentially hazardous, to flight operations. A special heading (reference paragraph 3.2.b, above) will be assigned which has priority over any transmission in progress on the Weather Message Switching Center Replacement (WMSCR).
  - (2) Routine PIREPs contain other information except that listed above in (1).

**4. Collection of PIREPs.** PIREPs transmitted via the FAA's Aeronautical Information System (AIS), as well as any transmitted via the NWS's Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, are collected by the National Weather Service Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG). NWSTG forwards PIREPs received every five (5) minutes to WMSCR, which generates the bulletin UBUS1 KWNA.