Department of Commerce • National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration • National Weather Service

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-943

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Operations and Services
Hydrologic Services Program, NWSPD 10-9

REPORTING FORMATS FOR REAL-TIME DATA

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

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWS Instruction 10-943, "Reporting Formats for Real-Time Data," dated August 22, 2003. The following revisions were made to this instruction:

1)   Changes the second sentence in Section 2 from "The three general formats or parameter codes currently available for encoding SHEF data messages are…" to "The three general formats and supporting parameter codes currently available for encoding SHEF data messages are…"

 (signed) Ahsha Tribble for   October 10, 2008
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Reporting Formats for Real-Time Data

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1.   Introduction. This directive establishes a standard format for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service (NWS) offices to use in the exchange of observed and forecast point data used in hydrologic operations.

2.   Standard Format. The standard format used by NWS offices for exchange of observed and forecast point data used in hydrologic operations will be standard hydrometeorological exchange format (SHEF). The three general formats and supporting parameter codes currently available for encoding SHEF data messages are described in NWS Manual 10-944, *Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) Manual*.

This instruction does not apply to raw data reported by data collection platforms (DCP) or other automated observing sensors. It also does not apply to gridded data sets or graphics produced or used by various software and remote sensing systems.

3.   Support Responsibilities. The Office of Hydrologic Development is responsible for maintaining SHEF standards, decoder software, and software documentation and for providing associated software training. Field offices may request changes and additions in SHEF coding and associated software through the branch or division at regional headquarters which oversees hydrologic services in the region.

Instructions and rules for encoding data in SHEF are provided in NWS Manual 10-944.