

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

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWS Instruction 10-943, "Reporting Formats for Real-Time Data," dated October 24, 2008. The following revisions were made to this instruction:

- 1) Clarifies the intent of the first sentence in Section 2 by changing it to: "Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) will be the standard format used for exchanging observed and forecast point data between NWS offices for all hydrologic operations."
- 2) Clarifies the process for requesting changes to SHEF by changing the last sentence in the first paragraph in Section 3 to "Field offices may request changes and additions in SHEF coding and associated software through the branch or division at regional headquarters managing the regional hydrology program, which will then forward the requirements to the Hydrologic Support Branch in the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services' Hydrologic Services Division."

(Signed)

January 10, 2011

David B. Caldwell
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Date

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. Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format (SHEF) will be the standard format used for exchanging observed and forecast point data between NWS offices for all hydrologic operations. 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 managing the regional hydrology program, which will then forward the requirements to the Hydrologic Support Branch in the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services' Hydrologic Services Division.

Instructions and rules for encoding data in SHEF are provided in [NWS Manual 10-944](#).