



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: WDS/PWS/OBS/WIS/CAP-Alerting

GENEVA, 12 March 2015

Annexes: 2 (Annex II available in English only)

Subject: Enhanced Alerting Facilities of WMO Members

Actions required: (a) To implement the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standard
(b) To update the Register of Alerting Authorities
(c) To take note of the WMO Alert Hub

Dear Sir/Madam,

The fifteenth session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XV, Geneva, 2007) requested the Secretary-General to improve the exchange of warnings through an all hazards network. Subsequently, the sixty-fourth session of the Executive Council (Geneva, 25 June–3 July 2012) endorsed the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standard and invited Members to consider adopting the CAP standard. Similarly, during the extraordinary session of the Commission on Basic Systems (CBS-Ext.(2014), Asuncion, 2014), CBS strongly encouraged WMO Members to adopt the CAP standard and to engage in the international Register of Alerting Authorities. Relevant excerpts from the provisional report of CBS-Ext.(2014) are attached as Annex I to this letter.

Members greatly enhance their facilities for alerting by leveraging current practices based on CAP as the key standard for all-hazards and all-media public alerting. The use of CAP is known to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of alerting systems and can help ensure that alerts emanating from WMO Members are easily integrated with other emergency systems and public media. Many National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs) have already adopted CAP. If your Service has not yet already done so, as the first action, you are kindly encouraged to implement the CAP standard.

In support of CAP implementation by NMHSs, WMO provides the CAP Jump-Start Offer through its Public Weather Services (PWS) Programme. Through this Offer, PWS arranges for an expert to visit NMHSs to conduct training and demonstrate how to install CAP using freeware. About half of the Members have already participated in a CAP Jump-Start, or have already requested one at their location. Please visit the following weblink for more information and guidance on this Offer: https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/CAPJumpStart_en.html.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6834)
Presidents of technical commissions (P.TC-1749)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Presidents of regional associations) (for information)

In addition, WMO sponsors CAP Implementation Workshops in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the OASIS standards organization. These Workshops provide a forum for implementers of CAP and other experts to share their CAP experience and insights. The next CAP Implementation Workshop, which will have an associated CAP Jump-Start, will be held in Rome, from 22 to 24 September 2015. A descriptive flyer is available at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/flyer-2015-CAP-Workshop.pdf>.

The second action concerns the participation of NMHSs in the International Register of Alerting Authorities. The Register (available at: <http://www.wmo.int/alertingorg>) is an automated facility for distinguishing warnings from authoritative sources, established by WMO in collaboration with ITU. Today, the Register contains at least one record for each of the 191 Members. These records are intended to be maintained by editors, designated by the Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO. At present, 123 of the 191 WMO Members have designated editors, as listed in Annex II to this letter. If your country or territory is not in this list, it is recommended that you nominate an editor. To do this, kindly send the name and e-mail address of your nominated editor to Mr Samuel Muchemi, Scientific Officer, Public Weather Services (SMuchemi@wmo.int), who will guide your nominee through the process. Members who are already on this list are kindly reminded to ensure that their editors update the authority records, and include CAP feeds where available.

As a third action, your Service is requested to take note of the WMO Alert Hub, which will be developed in due course, that will leverage both CAP and the Register of Alerting Authorities. The purpose of the WMO Alert Hub is to enhance the global accessibility of hazard threat alerts, specifically those alerts published by sources in the Register of Alerting Authorities. The WMO Alert Hub will be highly reliable, highly available, and fast enough that an alert can be pushed out to people within two seconds of being issued. This speed is crucial for immediate threats such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and tornadoes where seconds can mean the difference between warnings that are life-saving and warnings that arrive too late. Because the WMO Alert Hub will be largely independent of local network services, robust alerting will continue even if local services are weak or become overwhelmed. This off-loading of demand can be especially crucial for events in least-developed countries. Yet, the WMO Alert Hub will not compromise authority because alerts remain clearly a product of the alert issuer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your Service for your continued support in promoting the Programmes and activities of WMO.

I look forward to your response regarding implementation of CAP and nominating an editor for the international Register of Alerting Authorities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Manaenkova', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
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WDS/PWS/OBS/WIS/CAP-Alerting, ANNEX I

**EXCERPTS FROM THE PROVISIONAL REPORT OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON BASIC
SYSTEMS (CBS-EXT.(2014), ASUNCION, SEPTEMBER 2014)**

The following excerpts are taken from provisional report of the extraordinary session of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS-Ext.(2014), Asuncion, 2014). Further information is available under: <http://cbs-ext2014.wmo.int/>

(Ref.: CBS-Ext(2014)-d02-1(1)-REV1-TECHNICAL-REGULATIONS-PWS-approved_en.docx)

Decisions of the Commission with respect to the Open Programme Area Group on Public Weather Services (OPAG/PWS)

2.1(1).10 To strongly encourage the engagement of Members in: (i) the “WMO Register of Alerting Authorities” initiative; and (ii) adopting the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) technology for communicating weather warnings and alerts, and in this connection to promote the WMO Alert Hub as performer of a service that is complementary to the international Register of Alerting Authorities to reinforce the principal of a single authoritative voice for alerting.

WMO Alert Hub

2.1(1).20 The Commission also noted the value of having information on a WMO Alert Hub and the continuing effort by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) towards defining and establishing a WMO Alert Hub. The purpose of the Hub is to enhance the global accessibility of authoritative alerts for any type of hazard threat. The WMO Alert Hub is implemented as a content subset of the less specialized Alert Hub (<http://alert-hub.appspot.com/publishers>) operated as a free service on the worldwide cloud infrastructure. An Alert Hub aggregates in one location many emergency information data feeds by sources throughout the world. The distinctive feature of the WMO Alert Hub is that alerts accessible through it are limited to those alerts published by authoritative sources registered in the international Register of Alerting Authorities (<http://www.wmo.int/alertingorg>) whereas the less specialized Alert Hub intends to contain alerts from other sources as well. In this regard, the WMO Alert Hub is to be publicly accessible through a URL address associated to WMO (e.g., <https://www.wmo.int/alert-hub>).

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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WDS/PWS/OBS/WIS/CAP-Alerting, ANNEX II

WMO MEMBERS WITH A DESIGNATED EDITOR FOR THE REGISTER OF ALERTING AUTHORITIES

Afghanistan	France	Nepal
Angola	French Polynesia	Netherlands
Anguilla	Gabon	New Caledonia
Antigua and Barbuda	Gambia	New Zealand
Argentina	Germany	Norway
Australia	Ghana	Oman
Austria	Greece	Pakistan
Azerbaijan	Guinea-Bissau	Philippines
Bahamas	Guyana	Poland
Bahrain	Hong Kong	Portugal
Bangladesh	Hungary	Qatar
Barbados	Iceland	Romania
Belize	India	Saint Lucia
Bhutan	Indonesia	Samoa
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Senegal
Botswana	Iraq	Serbia
Brazil	Ireland	Seychelles
Brunei Darussalam	Italy	Singapore
Burkina Faso	Japan	Slovakia
Burundi	Jordan	Slovenia
Canada	Kenya	Solomon Islands
Cayman Islands	Kiribati	South Sudan
Central African Republic	Kuwait	Spain
Chile	Latvia	Sri Lanka
China	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sudan
Colombia	Lithuania	Swaziland
Comoros	Macao	Sweden
Congo	Macedonia, the Former	Switzerland
Congo, the Democratic Republic of the	Yugoslav Republic of	Tanzania, United Republic of
Cook Islands	Madagascar	Thailand
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Trinidad and Tobago
Croatia	Maldives	Ukraine
Curacao and Sint Maarten	Mali	United Arab Emirates
Cyprus	Malta	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Mauritania	United States
Denmark	Mauritius	Uruguay
Dominica	Mexico	Uzbekistan
El Salvador	Micronesia, Federated States of	Vanuatu
Ethiopia	Moldova, Republic of	Virgin Islands, British
Fiji	Montenegro	Yemen
Finland	Myanmar	Zambia
		Zimbabwe