



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water
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Our ref.: OBS/WIGOS PO/OSCAR

GENEVA, 26 February 2016

Annexes: 4

Subject: Launch of the Surface-based component of OSCAR (OSCAR/Surface) on
2 May 2016

Action required: Nomination of a National Focal Point for OSCAR/Surface

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to inform you about the actions needed prior to the launch of the Surface-based component of the Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review Tool (OSCAR/Surface), planned on 2 May 2016.

Resolution 26 (Cg-17) - *Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49) – Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System requires all WMO Members to provide WIGOS metadata for WIGOS observing stations. In order to facilitate the provision of WIGOS metadata, OSCAR/Surface has been developed in a joint venture between WMO and MeteoSwiss. The launch of OSCAR/Surface on 2 May 2016 will impact your operations, and I would like to call your attention to the following four items:

First, you are kindly requested to nominate a National Focal Point for OSCAR/Surface. The Terms of Reference of this Focal Point are specified in Annex I. In particular, the Focal Point will be authorized to maintain your country or territory's observing stations metadata, as well as to delegate access rights in the system. In case no nomination is received by 2 May 2016, we will assume that the current National Focal Point for WMO Publication No. 9, Volume A, Observing Stations and WMO Catalogue of Radiosondes (Volume A) will also assume the duties of National Focal Point for OSCAR/Surface.

Second, OSCAR/Surface will replace WMO Publication No. 9, Volume A. The traditional Volume A flatfile will continue being published throughout 2016-17. **However, this "legacy" file will lack some of the previously available fields.** Please also note that the weekly notifications of changes to Volume A (METNO messages) will no longer be circulated after 2 May 2016. In order to ensure operational continuity, please, make sure that your operational processes continue working either directly with OSCAR/Surface or with the legacy file. Annex II contains more details on the content of the legacy file.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6890)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

Third, the manual process of maintaining Volume A by correspondence with the Secretariat will be replaced by direct maintenance of OSCAR/Surface by Members through the Internet. Please, see Annexes III and IV for more information and assistance on OSCAR/Surface.

Fourth, at its launch OSCAR/Surface will be initialized with existing information imported from the Volume A, GAWSIS, Weather Radar and Marine (JCOMMops) databases. Please, ensure appropriate review of this information in OSCAR/Surface after its launch, since certain assumptions, including historical information, will be made when importing this information.

OSCAR/Surface is a key component of the WIGOS implementation, providing accurate current and historical information about all national and regional observing stations. This objective can only be achieved with the active participation of all WMO Members by reviewing and maintaining accurately the information in OSCAR/Surface.

I wish to thank you for your continued support in promoting the Programmes and activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General

National Focal Point for OSCAR/Surface, Terms of Reference

The National Focal Point (NFP) on the OSCAR/Surface shall provide linkages between the Member country/territory and the WMO Secretariat to ensure that all WIGOS metadata required for the OSCAR database regarding the observing systems operated and maintained by the country/territory are recorded, entered into OSCAR and updated as needed.

In this respect, the NFP shall:

1. Liaise with the National WIGOS FP in the country/territory to ensure that all the operators of the relevant observing systems in the country/territory are aware of OSCAR and ready to make the required metadata routinely available to OSCAR;
2. Coordinate user account creation in OSCAR for the people accredited, to manage within OSCAR the relevant metadata from the country/territory;
3. Promulgate the WMO Technical Regulations relevant to OSCAR, as well as the guidance and training materials for an adequate use of OSCAR;
4. Make all efforts to ensure that all accredited users of OSCAR are well trained to make the right use of the editing tools available in OSCAR;
5. Promote, in collaboration with the WMO Secretariat and in compliance with the required standards, the use of automatic, or semi-automatic, machine-to-machine transfer of information for insertion/updates of metadata within OSCAR, from the relevant observing systems of the Member country/territory;
6. Work closely with the established Regional WIGOS Centre (RWC) of the region/subregion;
7. Upon request, provide the Secretariat and the RWC with an overview of the country/territory WIGOS metadata status in OSCAR;
8. Take, without any delay, actions in order to correct any erroneous and/or missing metadata identified in OSCAR, regarding the Member country/territory observing systems;
9. Collaborate with the relevant WMO working bodies and the Secretariat to perform the critical review and gap analysis at national and regional levels, using the OSCAR/Analysis tool.

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OBS/WIGOS PO/OSCAR, ANNEX II

**Differences between the current WMO-No. 9, Volume A (Vol. A) fields and the
OSCAR export onto a Vol. A legacy file**

Vol. A field	Difference in OSCAR export file	Comment
RegionId	same	
RegionName	almost the same	English only.
CountryArea	almost the same	English only, sort order different. Textual changes possible.
CountryCode	different	ISO3 instead of number code.
StationId	WIGOS ID	Built according to Attachment 2.1 of the WIGOS Manual approved by Seventeenth Congress.
IndexNbr	same	
IndexSubNbr	same	
StationName	same	
Latitude	same	
Longitude	same	
Hp	same	
HpFlag	empty	
Hha	same	
HhaFlag	empty	
PressureDefId	Almost the same	An entry for "mean sea level" was added.
SO-1	empty	
SO-2	empty	
SO-3	empty	
SO-4	empty	
SO-5	empty	
SO-6	empty	
SO-7	empty	
SO-8	empty	
ObsHs	empty	
UA-1	empty	
UA-2	empty	
UA-3	empty	
UA-4	empty	
ObsRems	empty	May contain flags for identification of upper-air stations.

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OBS/WIGOS PO/OSCAR, ANNEX III

Additional information on OSCAR/Surface

Insert OSCAR brochure from Library:

http://library.wmo.int/opac/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=17244#.Vs3UYkYc7mg



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OBS/WIGOS PO/OSCAR, ANNEX IV

Contact information for questions on OSCAR/Surface

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WIGOS Project Office: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/contact.html>

