

Service Description Document

Aviation Weather Center (AWC) Pilot Report (PIREP) Online Submission Form

Part 1 – Mission Connection

1. Service Description: The Aviation Weather Center (AWC) will collect Pilot Reports (PIREPs) directly from the users via an online submission form:

<http://www.aviationweather.gov/airep/submit>.

The PIREPs will then be properly formatted and distributed via the AWC website and through National Weather Service (NWS) distribution/communication networks. The reports will be displayed graphically at:

<http://www.aviationweather.gov>.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), pursuant to Title 49 United States Code Section 44720, established requirements for this weather information and service which is necessary for the safe and efficient conduct of operations in the National Airspace System (NAS).

2. Purpose/Intended Use: PIREPs are reports of meteorological phenomena encountered in flight. These reports assist other pilots, dispatchers, and flight planners with flight plan preparation, situational awareness, and operational decision making. The PIREPs are integrated into the NWS forecast production process to help improve the accuracy of the forecasts, which include human generated products such as Airman’s Meteorological Information (AIRMETs) and Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMETs) as well as automated products such as the Graphical Turbulence Guidance (GTG), the Current Icing Product (CIP) and the Forecast Icing Product (FIP). PIREPs are particularly valuable in areas where surface-based observations are unavailable.

The AWC PIREP Online Submission Form is supplemental to the FAA Aeronautical Information System Replacement (AIS-R), the current means of collecting PIREPs. The AWC PIREP form enables registered users to directly enter pertinent inflight weather information, thereby increasing the overall number of PIREPs available to the NWS, FAA, and the aviation community. PIREPS submitted via the website will be automatically formatted, distributed, and displayed graphically (as described in section 1).

3. Audience/Users: Aircraft dispatchers, traffic managers, private helicopter company owners and operators, airline owners and operators, general aviation pilots, NWS forecasters and FAA Air Traffic Controllers. Users will be required to register prior to accessing the PIREP submission form. Validation of user accounts will be completed by AWC staff and will consider whether the user has (1) a pilot’s license, (2) a .gov or .mil email address, or (3) a group ID number for airlines. Pilot license information will be obtained from the FAA public registry (<http://registry.faa.gov>). All other requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

4. Presentation Format: Fillable online form.

5. Feedback Method:

Feedback will typically be collected via comments provided to the www.AviationWeather.gov webmaster. Opportunities for face-to-face responses will occasionally occur in the context of media workshops and public outreach events.

For further information, please contact:

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Part 2 – Technical Description

1. Format and Science Basis: The AWC PIREP Online Submission Form is a tool to allow users to electronically submit weather data observed inflight.

2. Training:

No additional training is required to use the tool.

3. Availability:

The AWC PIREP Online Submission Form is available 24/7 and updated as needed.

The AWC PIREP Online Submission Form will be available at:

<http://www.aviationweather.gov/airep/submit>.