

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
TYPE: Official Product  
DATE: January 30, 2003***

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CENTER WEATHER ADVISORY (CWA)

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The National Weather Services (NWS) Center Weather Advisory (CWA) is an aviation warning for conditions meeting or approaching national in-flight advisory criteria (i.e., AIRMET, SIGMET, or SIGMET for convection) as described in NWSI 10-811. The CWA may include one or more elements consisting of surface wind speed and direction, convective weather, visibility and obstruction to vision, turbulence, icing, and Low Level Wind Shear (LLWS); and any expected significant change(s) to one or more of these conditions during the specified time period. The CWA is valid from 0-2 hours. The CWA may supplement an in-flight aviation weather advisory or be issued before an in-flight aviation weather advisory takes effect. A CWA may also be issued when in-flight aviation weather advisory criteria are not met, but in the forecasters judgement, conditions are or will be adversely affecting the safe flow of air traffic in the Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) and terminal airspaces.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

The NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) is responsible for providing advisories covering the airspace of the ARTCC they support. The CWA is written for aviation pilots for the protection of life and property and to promote the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS).

**3. Audience:**

The CWA is intended for government users, commercial and general aviation users.

**4. Presentation Format:**

The CWA is an alphanumeric weather advisory.

**5. Feedback Method:**

Comments regarding the CWA and technical comments or questions for the CWA product may be addressed to:

National Weather Service Headquarters  
Attn: Aviation Services Branch, OS23 rm13320  
1325 E-W Highway, SSMC2  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

or e-mail comments to: [Kathleen.Schlachter@noaa.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Schlachter@noaa.gov).

## Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The Center Weather Advisory (CWA) product is composed of the format and content described in detail in National Weather Service Instruction 10-803.

2. **Availability:**

The CWA is an event-driven product and issued during scheduled CWSU duty hours. No CWA will be issued during CWSU off-duty hours. The CWA is available on the normal NWS dissemination circuits including the INTERNET and FAA circuits.

3. **Additional Information:**

Refer to NWSI 10-803, Support to Air Traffic Control Facilities for a detailed technical description of the CWA. The URL for NWSI is: [www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/)

Example may be viewed at : <http://aviationweather.gov/cwsu>.