

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: April 24, 2003***

ALASKA LOW LEVEL SIGNIFICANT WEATHER GRAPHIC (SWL)

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Alaska Low Level Significant Weather Graphic (SWL) is a graphic product providing an outlook forecast of significant weather for aviation below 25,000 ft (FL250). The SWL is prepared twice per day, approximately 5 to 6 hours after 00Z and 12Z model runs. Three graphics are produced with respective valid times 24, 36 and 48 hours after model time. Included on the graphics are surface isobars, highs, lows and fronts as well as areas of IFR and MVFR weather and thunderstorms, areas of moderate or greater turbulence, and freezing levels.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The SWL is intended as a planning tool providing an outlook for weather elements important to aviation 1 to 2 days in the future.

3. Audience:

The target audience for the product includes: general and commercial aviation, and military and government agencies.

4. Presentation Format:

The AAWU provides the product in an graphical format and prepares them in a consistent manner.

5. Feedback Method:

The NWS is constantly seeking to improve its products based on user feedback. Customers can provide continuous feedback through e-mail links to the Meteorologist in charge or the Techniques Development Meteorologist at the AAWU via the office Internet web sites. They also can contact the Regional Aviation Meteorologist at the NWS Alaska Region Headquarters. The AAWU and Alaska Region Headquarters also obtain feedback through meetings with interested aviation interests, FAA, military and other government agencies and through Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments on the Graphical Area Forecast may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Bill Alexander
Regional Aviation Meteorologist
222 West 7th Avenue #23 Room 517
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7575
or e-mail questions and comments to: Bill.Alexander@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The Alaska Aviation Weather Unit disseminates the SWL in a graphical format. The production of this graphic is based mainly on ETA model forecasts, coordination with aviation and other forecasts produced by the Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks Forecast Offices, and the application of local knowledge and applications.

2. **Availability:**

The AAWU disseminates the SWL every 12 hours on a scheduled basis. No updates to the graphic are made between scheduled dissemination times. The product is disseminated via the Internet and to the FAA Alaska Aviation Display System.

The following WWW Internet site is a location to access the Alaska GFA product:

<http://aawu.arh.noaa.gov/longtermsigwx.php>.

3. **Additional Information:** N/A