



DUATS FLYER

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FAA Awards CSC DUATS New Contract

CSC DUATS now is under a new five year contract from the FAA. The contract runs from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2013. Thank you for your support and we look forward to providing you with many new enhancements in the following months.

New Forecast Winds and Temperature Aloft Products Now Available

CSC DUATS now has Graphic Forecast winds/temperatures covering up to 48 hours and National Weather Service alphanumeric Forecast winds/temperatures covering up to 28 hours in advance.

The graphic products are available in 0, 12, 24, 36, and 48 hour forecasts and are updated twice a day at 0400Z and 1600Z.

The new alphanumeric 4-a-day Wind and Temperature products provide more accurate forecasts over the previous 2-a-day wind/temperature products. Also the forecasts now extend coverage up to 28 hours, depending on the time of day you request the briefing and the departure time.

The Winds and Temperature Aloft Forecasts (FD) are computer-prepared and issued by the National Meteorological Center (NMC) in Suitland, Maryland. The wind forecasts are distributed to the Flight Service Stations, Centers, and to DUATS.

The forecasts have four observation times, and three valid times for the reports that come from those observations. Observation times are at 0000Z, 0600Z, 1200Z and 1800Z daily.

Levels Forecast

There are two types of forecast types – low and high. Dependant upon station elevation, FD1/3/5 wind forecasts, also known as low level, are issued for the following levels: 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, 34, and 39 thousand foot levels. FD8/9/0 are for the 45,000 and 53,000 foot levels. The minus signs are deleted preceding the temperatures at the 30, 34, and 39 thousand foot levels.

Format

The format of the winds is as follows: DDSS(TT) or DDSS (-TT). The direction (DD) is the wind direction rounded to the nearest 10 degrees i.e. 242 degrees would be 24. The speed (SS) is the forecast wind speed in knots. The temperature (TT) is the temperature in whole degree Celsius for each forecast point. Temperatures are assumed to be negative above 24,000 feet. However there are special cases for wind direction and speed. See the table on the right for decoding .

If DD is 51 to 86 and the SS is 0 to 98, subtract 50 from DD and multiply by 10 to get the direction and add 100 to SS to get the speed. If the DD is 51 to 86 and the SS is 99, subtract 50 from HH and multiply by 10 to get the DD and the SS is 199 knots or greater. If the DD is 99 and the SS is 00, then the wind is 5 knots or less with no direction given or it is light and variable.

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Type	Base Data Time	Valid for	For Use (period)	Data Available
FD1/8	0000Z	0600Z	0200-0900Z	~0200Z
FD3/9	0000Z	1200Z	0900-1800Z	~0200Z
FD5/0	0000Z	0000Z	1800-0600Z	~0200Z
FD1/8	0600Z	1200Z	0800-1500Z	~0800Z
FD3/9	0600Z	1800Z	1500-0000Z	~0800Z
FD5/0	0600Z	0600Z	0000-1200Z	~0800Z
FD1/8	1200Z	1800Z	1400-2100Z	~1400Z
FD3/9	1200Z	0000Z	2100-0600Z	~1400Z
FD3/0	1200Z	1200Z	0600-1800Z	~1400Z
FD1/8	1800Z	0000Z	2000-0300Z	~2000Z
FD3/9	1800Z	0600Z	0300-1200Z	~2000Z
FD5/0	1800Z	1800Z	1200-0000Z	~2000Z

Winds/Temperature Aloft Forecast Schedule

Value of DD	Value of SS	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
01-36	06-99	Multiply DD by 10	SS
51-86	0-98	Subtract 50 from DD and multiply by 10	Add 100 to SS
51-86	99	Subtract 50 from DD and multiply by 10	199 knots or greater
99	00	Not given	5 knots or less; or Light and variable

Winds/Temperature Aloft Decoding Table

Please retain your DUATS Newsletters for future reference.

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Let's look at a sample message for MKC (Kansas City):

DATA BASED ON 010000Z
 VALID 010600Z FOR USE 0200-0900Z. TEMPS NEG ABV 24000
 FT 3000 6000 9000 12000 18000 24000 30000 34000 39000
 MKC 2426 2726-09 2826-14 2930-21 2744-32 2751-41 275550 276050 276547

The sample message is decoded: DATA BASED ON 010000Z

The DATA BASED ON time is DDZZZZ where DD is the day of the month and ZZZZ is the UTC Base Data Time. In the above sample the forecast data is based on computer forecasts generated the first day of the month at 0000 UTC.

The next line: VALID 010600Z FOR USE 0200-0900Z. TEMPS NEG ABV 24000

Indicates the valid time of the forecast is the first day of the month at 0600 UTC. The forecast winds and temperatures are valid for use between 0200 and 0900 UTC. The last part indicates that the temperatures are negative above 24,000 feet, therefore, the minus sign (-) is no longer used for those altitudes.

The remainder of the message:

FT 3000 6000 9000 12000 18000 24000 30000 34000 39000
 MKC 2426 2726-09 2826-14 2930-21 2744-32 2751-41 275550 276050 276547

Shows the flight levels and the forecasts. At 3,000 feet altitude, 2426 is 240 degrees at 26 knots. 2726-09 is 270 degrees at 26 knots with the forecast air temperature of -9 degrees Celsius. The 30,000 foot wind is forecast to be 270 degrees at 55 knots with the air temperature forecast to be -50 degrees Celsius.

How the FD schedule affects flight planning.

With the FD forecasts issued four times a day, there will be times when no forecast winds will be available for the full 24 hour period that DUATS lets you plan and file flights in advance of departure. The following table shows how far in advance you can expect to get FD forecasts depending on when you request the briefing.

Request time	Maximum Forecast Time (hrs)	Request time	Maximum Forecast Time (hrs)
0000	24	1200	24
0100	23	1300	23
0200	28*	1400	28*
0300	27*	1500	27*
0400	26*	1600	26*
0500	25*	1700	25*
0600	24	1800	24
0700	23	1900	23
0800	28*	2000	28*
0900	27*	2100	27*
1000	26*	2200	26*
1100	25*	2300	25*

*DUATS only allows departure times up to 24 hours in advance, however forecasts for the duration of your flight up to the Maximum Forecast Time will be provided. For example, if you log in and request a briefing at 0800 UTC for a departure at 0759, you can expect to receive the FD for the departure time and covering up to 4 hours of your ETE.

Sometimes the FDs may not have been sent, so you will see "report not available". If you requested via the flight planner, you will see no winds in your output. Remember, the winds expire at the top of the hour so if you requested a wind at 0701, the forecast that would be available would cover the next 22 hours.

How CSC DUATS can Help

When you request any weather briefing, enter the correct departure time, altitude, and estimated time enroute. CSC DUATS uses these parameters to select the proper set of winds, interpolate the forecast for your altitude and display additional sets of winds if the duration of your flight goes beyond the "for use" time of the departure set of winds.



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