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Service Change Notice 22-20 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
200 PM EST Wed Feb 23 2022

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners and Employees

From: C. Bruce Entwistle
 Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Operational Implementation of Graphical Forecasts for
 Aviation (GFA) for Alaska: Effective March 1, 2022

Updated to delay transition to operational status until March 1, 2022 due
to Critical Weather Day declaration on the previously planned date.

Effective March 1, 2022 at 1900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the GFA
Expansion to Alaska produced by the National Weather Service (NWS)
Aviation Weather Center (AWC) will transition to operational status.

The current operational GFA domain includes the conterminous United
States, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Western Atlantic Ocean and the
North Pacific Ocean including Hawaii. The GFA Expansion to Alaska
provides meteorological information in a graphical format over Alaska,
the Bering Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and portions of the Arctic Ocean. The
GFA includes observations and forecasts valid for the Alaska Flight
Information Regions critical for aviation safety overlaid on high-
resolution maps. Where gridded NWS forecasts do not exist, GFA uses
automated computer model guidance from the Rapid Update (RAP) and Global
Forecast System (GFS) models.

The Alaska Aviation Weather Unit will continue to provide text Area
Forecasts (FA) for Alaska to support Alaskan users. Both products may be
used for planning purposes.

The GFA provides the meteorological information necessary to meet the
needs of the Federal Aviation Administration, pursuant to Title 49 United
States Code Section 44720.

The GFA is available at:
<https://www.aviationweather.gov/gfa>

The Product Description Document can be found at:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Opl_GFAExpansiontoAlaska_2022.pdf

If you have any questions regarding the GFA, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are available at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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