

April 20, 2011

IMMEDIATE Changes to COOP/Daily Form Access

NCDC is implementing major changes that have a direct impact on the COOP/Daily form generated product. The DS3200 dataset, which provides the data used to populate the COOP form, is being discontinued beginning with the January 2011 *data month* and is being replaced with the Global Historical Climatology Network -Daily (GHCN-D) data.

Immediate Impact:

1. The existing COOP/Daily system will remain online. However, there will be limited forms available after December 2010 data month (*only ASOS stations will be uploaded, no COOP stations*). To access COOP data forms from January 2011 forward, please visit the Image & Publication system FREE COOP forms at <http://www7.ncdc.noaa.gov/IPS/coop/coop.html>.
2. Online purchases of individual station data *prior to January 2011* data month and the ability to order online for certification remain available.
3. Requests for certified COOP data beginning with the January 2011 data month MUST be made offline by contacting Customer Service. Please visit [Ordering NCDC Data & Products](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/about/ncdcordering.html) at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/about/ncdcordering.html> for phone, fax & email information.
4. Current subscription user *access* will remain available; no new subscriptions or renewals may be purchased. If a new or renewed subscription was purchased after January 1, 2011 a refund will be processed and email notification sent.

Future Availability:

1. Within the next couple of months, the GHCN-D data will become a part of the revised Climate Data Online (CDO) system.
2. Once the revised CDO system is online, the GHCN-D data will be available in both ASCII format and a generated form (much like the online digital COOP form looks now).
3. Access to the GHCN-D data in the new CDO system will be available to all users at NO CHARGE.
4. The ability to order online for certified copies will be available for the "form generated" product produced from the GHCN-D dataset.

These changes are being made in a continuing effort to consolidate our datasets and product line, and improve user services.

Please email questions/concerns to nndc.webborder@noaa.gov.

(See the following page for a description of the Global Historical Climatology Network-Daily database)

About the Global Historical Climatology Network-Daily (GHCN-D) dataset:

GHCN-D is a database that addresses the critical need for historical daily temperature, precipitation, and snow records over global land areas. Like its monthly counterpart, GHCN-D is a composite of climate records from numerous sources that were merged and then subjected to a suite of quality assurance reviews. The archive includes the following meteorological elements:

- Daily maximum temperature
- Daily minimum temperature
- Temperature at the time of observation
- Precipitation (i.e., rainfall and snow water equivalent)
- Snowfall
- Snow depth
- *Other elements are reported by selected stations*

The format of the GHCN-D data is different from the 3200 dataset and may necessitate some changes for users who are downloading data electronically. The format documentation and list of country codes can be found in the GHCN-D *ReadMe* file on the ftp server

(<http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/readme.txt>):- The data files are located on our ftp server at <ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/ghcn/daily/>. The format of the GHCN-D file is arranged similar to the 3200 format with each row containing the station identifier, the year and month, the observation type, followed by 31 days of observations and flags. **There is NO “Time of Observation” (TOBS) contained in this file.** The GHCN-D data are currently available to ALL users at no charge. (Note: the current files are entire period of record for each station, updated daily, and are extremely large files).

We will be creating directories on the ftp server, within the /ghcn/ directory, that will contain subsets of the GHCN-D data in a yearly file that will be updated daily. The yearly file will be formatted so that every observation is on a new row: station identifier, date, observation type, observation, and time of observation. These files should be available in the near future. Separate documentation for this file format does not exist; however, the definitions of element, flags, and other items, will be the same with the exception of time of observation.

All users will have access to directories for ftp/ghcn/ and ftp3/3200 & 3210/ data at no charge.

For detailed information on this new dataset visit the GHCN-Daily web page at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/ghcn-daily/>