

BUFR Format: status on the experimentation phase + conversion tool (action 40)

prepared for ADMT8 by Takashi Yoshida

1. The WMO Commission for Basic Systems, which is in charge of GTS code and format, agreed to the addition of BUFR template for Argo profile data and related additions of BUFR descriptors and table entries at its extraordinary session held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, November 2006. The commission recommended corresponding amendments to the Manual on Codes, and operational implementation of the amendments on 7 November 2007.
2. Documents on the operational BUFR codes, which incorporate the Argo BUFR common sequence, new descriptors and new table entries, are now available on the WMO codes webpage:
<http://www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/www/WMOCodes/OperationalCodes.html>
3. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) started pre-operational implementation of the Argo BUFR distribution in May 2007, which will soon become operational on 7 November 2007. Distributions of TESAC messages will be continued in accordance with the WMO code migration plan, in which the migration is currently scheduled to be completed in 2012.
4. A netCDF-BUFR conversion tool (a perl script) has been developed by Takashi Yoshida. The tool is provided by him on demand. Anh Tran is developing a Java version.