WIND DIRECTION

Data following this standard should conform to the following:

DATA TYPE	Character
SYNTAX	Abbreviated cardinal or intercardinal direction, one to three letter characters, capitalized.
RANGE	N = North S = South E = East W = West NE = Northeast NW = Northwest SE = Southeast SW = Southwest VRB = Variable * * Wind direction may be considered variable if, during the 2-minute evaluation period, the wind speed is 6 knots (7 mph, Beaufort code <2) or less. In addition, the wind direction shall be considered variable if, during the 2-minute evaluation period, it varies by 60 degrees or more when the average wind speed is greater than 6 knots (7 mph, Beaufort code >2).
RECOMMENDED FIELD NAME	WINDDIR

INSTRUCTIONS

As of the approval date and whenever applicable, this data element will be used in any new automated system, data set, database, or information application, including new Geographic Information System (GIS) data and applications. This data element will also be used in any major modifications to existing systems or versions of these data-related items that use a coding scheme to record wind direction.

Service staff are strongly encouraged to utilize this data element in existing systems, data sets, databases, and information applications when appropriate. Where existing systems and data-related items are not in compliance, they should be modified to achieve compatibility and implement this data standard.

SAMPLE DATA FOLLOWING THIS STANDARD

Examples of data and/or lookups for data following this standard:

Refer to Range

RELATED REFERENCE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Applicable policies:

Part 274, FW 2, Establishing Service Data Standards
Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 1, Chapter 5, Wind, Section 5.4.2, Variable Wind Direction