CCFP QUICK REFERENCE

Collaborative Convective Forecast Product

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CCFP is a ***strategic*** **forecast of convection to guide traffic managers in their system-wide approach to managing traffic. The CCFP consists of 3 elements: collaboration, forecasts and applications. The CCFP forecast suite is a set of 3 forecast maps with lead times of 2, 4 and 6 hours, updated every 2 hours. Release times, based on Eastern Local Time (ELT), are from 0300 ELT to 2300 ELT, whether on Standard Time or DST.**

TRAINING: Two briefings, *"Industry Users"* and *"Government Users"* are available from the ATCSCC's Training Branch or from the AWC's web site at: http://aviationweather.gov/products/ccfp/info/ that contain a technical description of the CCFP and its interpretation.

COLLABORATION, FORECASTS & APPLICATION

Collaboration: each CCFP is produced by the Aviation Weather Center after collaboration with Meteorological Service of Canada, Center Weather Service Units and meteorological offices of airlines and service providers.

Forecast: once the final product is produced, each CCFP is posted on the TSD, CCSD and AWC's web site at: http://aviationweather.gov/products/ccfp/

Application: Planning TELCONs use the CCFP as the primary convective forecast product for strategic planning. This application by the users results in an operations plan.

VERIFICATION: The accuracy, precision and consistency of every forecast are verified by the NOAA Forecast Systems Laboratory, Forecast Verification Branch. Daily, monthly and seasonal verification statistics and a description of the methodology used can be found at the Forecast System Labs (FSL) web site at: http://www-ad.fsl.noaa.gov/fvb/rtvs/conv/

FORECAST CRITERIA

Forecast Region: the Continental U.S. from March 1st through late October and portions of southern Ontario and southern Quebec, Canada from April through Sept.

Minimum Threshold for CCFP (*convection*):

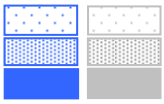
- **At least 3000 square miles, and**
- **A coverage of at least 25% with echoes of at least 40 dbz composite reflectivity, and**
- **A coverage of at least 25% with echo tops of at least 25,000 feet MSL, and**

All three threshold criteria are required for an area of convection to be included in a CCFP forecast polygon.

CONVECTION DESCRIPTORS

Coverage: identified within each area of convection, in one of four classes:

- **Sparse 25 – 49% (sparse fill)**
- **Medium 50 – 74% (medium fill)**
- **Solid 75 – 100% (solid fill)**



- ***Lines* of coverage shall be displayed as solid purple lines, either alone or within a polygon. The length of a line shall be at least 100 nm, the width at least 20nm on either side and the coverage at least 75%.**

Tops: within each area of convection, the maximum 25% of *Echo Tops* with at least 18.5 dbz, identified in one of three classes:

- **25,000-31,000 ft MSL**
- **31,000-37,000 ft MSL**
- **Above 37,000 ft MSL**

Growth Rate: given for each area or line of convection in one of four classes:

- **(-) Negative Growth**
- **(NC) No Change**
- **(+) Moderate Positive Growth**
- **(++) Fast Positive Growth**

Movement: label indicates:

- **Speed of movement (in kts) of the entire area**
- **Direction of movement of the entire area**

Confidence: the forecaster's subjective estimate that conditions defined by the minimum CCFP criteria will occur in the forecast polygon at the specified time and place. It will be identified in one of two classes:

- **LOW 25 – 49% (border & fill gray)**
- **HIGH 50 – 100% (border & fill slate blue)**

This Quick Reference card can be downloaded from the following websites:

http://cdm.metronaviation.com/Workgroups/CDM_Training/tool_training.html

http://aviationweather.gov/products/ccfp/info/

http://www.ATCSCC.faa.gov/Training/Training_Material/training_material.html (note: this site is FAA intranet only)

March 2005, version 4.6