



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
1325 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

November 17, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Affected Offices

FROM: W/OS Glenn Austin, <signed>  
Digital Services Transition Manager

THROUGH: Digital Services Planning and Action Committee (DSPAC)

SUBJECT: Quality Control Checks for QPF and SnowAmt

The approved implementation date when the revised QPF definition and methodologies take affect and the operational readiness evaluation begins for experimental QPF and SnowAmt is now February 5, 2007. At that time, the following QPF and SnowAmt integrity checks will be required:

- If a non-zero QPF is indicated in the 6-h QPF grid, at least one of those corresponding hours shall have a non-zero floating PoP.
- A non-zero QPF shall be included during one or both of the 6-h QPF periods when the corresponding 12-h PoP is  $\geq 50\%$ .
- If there is an accumulation  $\geq 0.5$ " in the 6-h SnowAmt grid, a corresponding non-zero 6-h QPF shall be included.
- If a non-zero QPF is indicated in a 6-h period, at least one of those hours shall have a precipitating weather type (rain, snow, rain showers, snow showers, rain/snow, sleet, freezing rain, drizzle).
- If there is a non-zero snow accumulation in the 6-h SnowAmt grid, at least one of those hours shall have snow or sleet in the Wx grids during the corresponding time period.

Tool developers are expected to integrate these checks into relevant local Smart Tools and Procedures. The augmented tools should be available by the implementation date.

To assist in this task, the National Smart Tools and Smart Initializations Team has developed *SnowAmtQPF<sub>o</sub>PW<sub>x</sub>Check*. This tool is a comprehensive Procedure to ensure the above requirements are met. The tool has been extensively documented and is envisioned to serve as an example to assist local developers in configuring their local tools. *SnowAmtQPF<sub>o</sub>PW<sub>x</sub>Check* is available for download from the National Smart Tool Repository (<http://140.90.90.253/~applications/STR/index.php3>).

Thank you for your help in making QPF and SnowAmt operational elements.