



13th Jan 2015

Client Note on GFS Operational Changes

The upgrade to the NCEP Global Forecast System (GFS) Operational model is scheduled to take place this Wednesday 14th January with effect from the 1200 UTC model run. For the last few days, Speedwell have been comparing the GFS test output being disseminated by the NCEP servers to see what impact the change might have on our own downscaled model products. We would like to draw your attention to a few immediate concerns regarding the forecast values that are seen in the comparison and to flag up some risk in the changes.

- **Our comparison of the raw model output from the test stream against the current product has shown some large differences between the new model and the current output, these differences are most marked over the northern United States and Canada as well as over parts of Eastern Europe.**
- **During our comparison we have also observed some rather large swings in forecast values between model runs coming from the test platform, with some locations showing extreme temperature swings of as much as 10C/20F between model runs – often well out of line with other GFS products.**

These issues may only be seen in the test stream data, and it is indeed possible that the change expected on Wednesday will be seamless, however we feel that we should bring our observations and concerns to your attention ahead of the upgrade.

As with all of the Speedwell Forecast products, our website allows for quick comparison between forecast model runs, as well as comparison between forecast models (GFS OP/ENS and ECMWF OP/EPS) – both the raw output and Speedwell downscaled forecasts).

If you wish to know more about the up-stream model changes please follow this link to the NWS notices: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin14-46gfs_aaa.htm

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