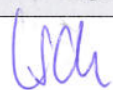






Definition of Product Status Categories for the SAF Network

Doc.No. : EUM/PPS/TEN/07/0036
Issue : v1A
Date : 14 May 2007

EUMETSAT
Am Kavalleriesand 31, D-64295 Darmstadt, Germany
Tel: +49 6151 807-7
Fax: +49 6151 807 555 Telex: 419 320 metsat d
<http://www.eumetsat.int>

Document Signature Table

	Name	Function	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Lothar Schueller	SAF Scientific Coordinator		3/8/07
Reviewed by:	SAF Network Management Team			22/8/07
Reviewed by:	Dominique Faucher	QAD		20/08/2007
Approved by:	Lorenzo Sarlo	H/PPS		3/8/07
Approved by:	Mikael Rattenborg	D/OPS		5/9/07

Distribution List

Distribution list	
Name	No. of Copies
EUMETSAT	Via Hummingbird
SAFs Project Manager and Steering Groups	Via e mail

Document Change Record

Issue / Revision	Date	DCN. No	Changed Pages / Paragraphs
1.0	21 March 2007	EUM/PPS/TEN/07/0036	First version
1.A	14 May 2007	EUM/PPS/TEN/07/0036	Minor Modifications

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Purpose and Scope of the Document	4
1.2	Background.....	4
2	SAF Product status categories	5
2.1	“In development”	5
2.2	“Demonstrational”	5
2.3	“Released”	6
2.4	“Pre-operational”	5
2.5	“Operational”	6
2.6	“Superseded”	6
2.7	“Discontinued”	6
3	SAF Product categories	7

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Document

This document provides the definition of the operational status of products derived from satellite data. It should serve as a guideline for reporting, product catalogues, and user dialog.

1.2 Background

The categories defined in this document reflect the scientific maturity, the level of commitment, the status of validation and serve the classification of large number of products. This facilitates the monitoring of the SAF products status and its evolution and enables a coherent reporting through the SAF Network to users and EUMETSAT delegate bodies. The following categories are defined in order to address the status of the SAF products:

- *In development*
- *Demonstrational*
- *Pre-operational*
- *Operational*
- *Released*
- *Superseded*
- *Discontinued*

The product status definitions as discussed at the 5th Technical Coordination Meeting in February 2005 contained as well the category “fully operational”, to indicate, that the product is derived with input data from all satellite sensors. This definition was necessary because one single product could have independent components for different sensors, e.g. from MSG and for EPS. “Fully operational” was then foreseen to indicate products being operational for both systems. At the SAF Product Requirements Workshop in January 2007, it was agreed, to treat independent product components as individual products (“atomistic approach”), in order to facilitate the monitoring and reporting. Following the new approach, the category “fully operational” is not needed anymore and thus dropped from the current set of product status categories.

2 SAF PRODUCT STATUS CATEGORIES

2.1 “In development”

Definition: *Products or software packages that are in development and not yet available to users*

This is the default category for any product that is recognised as a target for development and is independent from the start and status of the actual development work. This category also applies if beta users are involved in the validation process. The provision of data to the beta users are considered as an SAF internal (non-operational) activity and the product status remains to “in development”.

2.2 “Demonstrational”

Definition: *products or software packages that are provided to users without any commitment on the quality or availability of the service and have been considered by the relevant Steering Group to be useful to be disseminated in order to enabling users to test the product and to provide feedback*

An early dissemination to users or selected users in some cases is useful e.g. for the preparation and testing of systems relying of the products as input. The demonstrational status includes also the case, when the level 1 data from which the product is derived is not yet validated or operational.

A minimum of documentation would be expected to help the users identifying the status of the product (level of validation, if any, known limitations, if identified etc.) and how to provide/encourage feedback.

The “demonstrational” status should be temporary and last over a shorter period (e.g. less than 1 year). It is expected, that the user feedback is collected by the SAFs and appropriately provided to the relevant reviews and the Steering Group in order to decide on the (pre-) operational status after the demonstration phase.

2.3 “Pre-operational”

Definition: *Products or software packages with documented limitations that are able to satisfy the majority of applicable requirements and/or have been considered by the relevant Steering Group suitable for distribution to users*

This category could apply for one or more reasons e.g. in case the product is incomplete in terms of validation and/or coverage as well as for products with known degraded quality in terms of coverage, timeliness, resolution and/or accuracy. It can be expected that development activities are ongoing to improve the pre-operational products in order to promote them to the category “operational”. Documentation available to users shall include a Product User Manual and a Validation Report.

2.4 “Operational”

Definition: *products or software packages with documented non-relevant limitations that largely satisfy the requirements applicable and/or have been considered by the relevant Steering Group mature enough for distribution to users*

Any limitations of an “operational” product with respect to the planned and committed characteristics are not relevant for the targeted applications. Such non-relevant limitations could be only slight differences in the definition of the product, in terms of coverage, timeliness, formats etc. These will be available in the documentation made available to users, as part of the Product User Manual and the Validation Report.

2.5 “Released”

Definition: *Data sets that are made available to users, satisfying largely the applicable requirements, with documented characteristics, validations results and limitations, and that are considered by the relevant Steering Group mature enough for the targeted applications*

This category applies only to “data sets” where the term “operational” is not applicable. The release of a data set product should be released only after the completion of the product and the related documentation (Product User Manual, Validation Report), the detailed assessment of it and decision by Steering Group.

2.6 “Superseded”

Definition: *products or software packages that have been (pre-) operationally provided to users but are not (pre-) operational anymore because the information of same or superior quality and/or coverage is provided with another product and considered by the relevant Steering Group as not useful for being continuously provided to the users.*

This category applies for cases of incremental development of products, e.g. when several regional products are foreseen to be superseded by a global product that will be developed and operated later. It would also apply for the case, when a new satellite/sensor generation is available for providing a better quality product (e.g. MTG to replace MSG based products).

2.7 “Discontinued”

Definition: *products or software packages that have been previously (pre-) operationally provided to users but are not (pre-) operational anymore and are considered by the relevant Steering Group as not useful for further dissemination*

This category applies to cases where the operational processing and dissemination is stopped, e.g. because the product is not satisfying anymore the (evolving) user requirements, decreasing quality, non-availability of input data with no adequate replacement.

3 SAF PRODUCT CATEGORIES

The following product categories apply for the SAF Network:

- Near-Real Time Product
- Off-line Product
- Software Product
- Data set Product

The new category “data set” is introduced in the Continuous Development and Operations Phase (CDOP) since the development and review cycle is very different from the applicable procedures for the off-line, near real time products and software products.