Hourly Operational Consensus Forecasts (OCF)

User guide – version 2.0 – updated 1 July 2025

This user guide provides a summary of the products included in the hourly OCF (Operational Consensus Forecasts) bundle (IDBYOCF3) available to Registered Users via FTP and cloud (S)FTP.

Product Description

Operational Consensus Forecasts are automated, objective forecasting products generated by a computer that uses past performance of numerical model guidance to provide improved real-time forecasts at locations where recent observations are available.

Products

Table 1 provides a list of products included in the OCF - Hourly - Bundle (IDBYOCF3).

Product Code	Product Description
IDY02124	OCF 06Z hourly data forecasts (00Z base time)
IDY02125	OCF 18Z hourly data forecasts (12Z base time)
IDY02126	OCF Station Dictionary
IDY02127	Hourly OCF Station Dictionary
IDY02131	OCF 00Z hourly data forecasts (00Z base time)
IDY02132	OCF 12Z hourly data forecasts (12Z base time)

Table 1 OCF products included in the OCF - Hourly - Bundle (IDBYOCF3)

File Location

Files are available in the /fwo subdirectory of Registered Users' directories.

These products are available via cloud FTP (ftp-reg.cloud.bom.gov.au), SFTP (sftp-reg.cloud.bom.gov.au) and ftp.bom.gov.au.

File Naming Convention

Product files conform to the following naming convention:

ID*Ynnnnn.ext*

File-name key	
IDY*nnnnn*	Product Code as listed in Table 1
ext	file-type extension (dat – comma delimited data)

Forecast Fields

Table 2 provides a list of hourly OCF (IDY02124, IDY02125, IDY02131 and IDY02132) fields and descriptions.

Field	Description
# date	Forecast run date, in format *yyyymmdd*
# time	Forecast run time, in UTC, format *hh*
stn[7]	Forecast location, defined in IDY02127
date[8]	Forecast base date, in format "*yyyymmdd*"
per	Forecast hour, i.e. data is valid at the base date and time* plus forecast hour
t	Temperature (degrees Celsius)
prc	Precipitation (millimetres)
dwpt	Dew point (degrees Celsius)
r	Relative humidity (percent)
wd	Wind direction (cardinal degrees)
ws	Wind speed (metres per second)
qnh	QNH (hectopascals)

Table 2 List of Hourly OCF fields and descriptions

*Please note that the 06Z forecast data has a base time of 00Z and the 18Z forecast has a base time of 12Z. The 06Z and 18Z forecasts incorporate additional forecast data which is not available for the 00Z and 12Z forecasts.

The following fields appear in the files but are not produced operationally: **p**, **wetb**, **tcld**, **lcld**, **v**.

Missing Data

The automated values are produced when there is enough current weather station data available for that location, "-9999" indicates no forecast values are available.

Data Availability Times

Table 3 lists the expected approximate times for OCF hourly data products to be available on Cloud (S)FTP and FTP.

Product Code	Product Description	(S)FTP upload time (UTC)	(S)FTP upload time (AEST)
IDY02124	OCF 06Z hourly data forecasts (00Z base time)	0815	6:15 pm
IDY02125	OCF 18Z hourly data forecasts (12Z base time)	1915	5:15 am
IDY02131	OCF 00Z hourly data forecasts (00Z base time)	0515	3:15 pm
IDY02132	OCF 12Z hourly data forecasts (12Z base time)	1715	3:15 am

Table 3 Data availability times

The Station Dictionary products (IDY02126 and IDY02127) are updated daily at approximately 10:30 am AEST (0030 UTC).

Sample Files

Sample OCF data files are available in the following location:
ftp://ftp.bom.gov.au/anon/sample/catalogue/OCF/IDBYOCF3

Due to most browsers no longer supporting FTP, it is generally necessary to use an FTP client such as Filezilla to retrieve the sample files.

Alternatively, they can be accessed via Windows File Explorer by pasting the above link into the address bar.

Additional Information

For information on the generation of hourly OCF data, please refer to the following Operations Bulletin: http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/charts/bulletins/apob78.pdf

Contact us

For enquiries about real-time data please email webreg@bom.gov.au