

OBS 1-2001

PROCEDURES FOR THE USE, MAINTENANCE, AND PROCUREMENT OF THE MSC WEAVERBOARD 2000 SNOWBOARD

PURPOSE

MSC has approved the Weaverboard 2000 as an observer's aid for measuring the depth of newly fallen snow. This OBS circular describes the procedures for using, maintaining, and procuring the instrument. This circular is an addendum to *MANOBS 7th Edition* chapter 3 paragraph 3.7.6.

The device may not be suitable for all locations. Discretion lies with the responsible regional manager.

DESCRIPTION

This portable device consists of:

- a plywood board, approximately one half square meter in size with a two centimeter rim
- a black tipped carrying rod (**not to be used or marked as a measuring device**)
- a surface painted white to minimize the effects of insolation
- a rough collecting surface

OPERATION

At each synoptic observation, the observer shall:

- measure the amount of newly fallen snow on the board with a snow ruler
- take several measurements and average the results
- record the depth to the nearest 0.2 centimeter in the observer's notebook
- clean the board and relocate it in a level location that is free from obstructions or wind shadows

If melting occurs, the observer shall estimate what the depth would have been if no snow had melted.

During heavy snowfall, observers should take intermediate observations and report the accumulated total at the end of the observation period.

At no time shall the carrying rod be used as a ruler. The white surface of the carrying rod must not be marked or painted. The tip of the rod must be painted black.

Note that the board is an aid only. Measurements obtained may not be representative of the observing site. If doubt exists, the observer shall take additional measurements from the general area.

MAINTENANCE

At the start of each winter season the MSC Weaverboard 2000 shall be:

- Visually inspected and cleaned with a stiff brush.
- The board should have no cracks and the painted surface must be free of chips and scratches.
- The top of the carrying rod must retain its dark coloring
- The board and the carrying rod (except for the top of the rod) must be white
- The rod and rim must be securely fastened to the board.
- The MSC Weaverboard 2000 must be level enough to lay flat on a straight surface.

Any defects shall be reported to the station manager for remedial action.

Some observing stations may be equipped with a spare MSC Weaverboard 2000. At the start of the winter season the spare snowboard shall be stored in a dry, unheated, easily accessible location. The spare MSC Weaverboard 2000 shall be used as a replacement whenever the operational snowboard is unavailable.

At the end of each winter season the MSC Weaverboard 2000 shall be brought indoors and cleaned with a stiff brush. The snowboard shall be inspected for defects at this time then stored in safe location until the next winter season.

PROCUREMENT

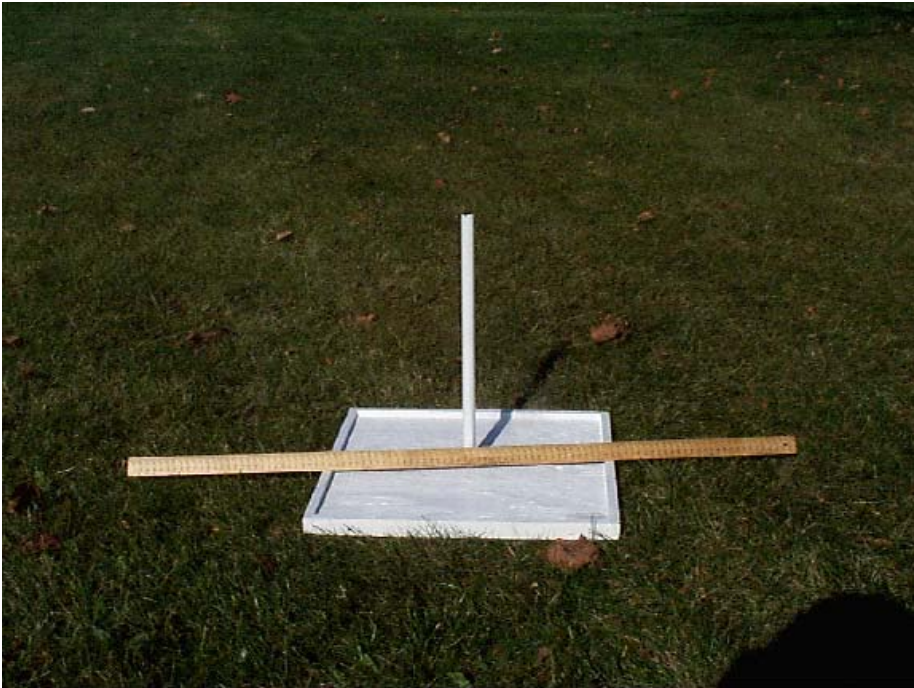
Detailed plans and specifications are available from NWCO Procurement Support Section. Each region shall determine which of their sites requires the new instrument. The regions shall arrange for local construction of the Weaverboard 2000.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

The MSC snowboard shall be operated safely. Due regard for the health and safety of the observer, on site personnel, and all others shall always be considered for all activities involving the instrument. This instrument has rough edges that may cause cuts or splinters. The white colouring of the snowboard makes it difficult to see and thus poses a tripping hazard. The lightweight characteristic of the MSC Weaverboard makes the instrument a possible projectile hazard in strong winds.

- All individuals working in the vicinity of the snowboard shall be warned of the potential hazards
- Gloves shall always be worn when handling the snowboard
- Instrument defects shall always be reported to the station manager

- Care must be taken to ensure that personnel do not trip or fall on the instrument
- This instrument shall not be used when winds are strong enough to lift the snowboard from the ground.



MSC Weaverboard 2000 with snow ruler