

Automated Tropical Cyclone Forecast System (ATCF) Storm
Identifiers

1. ATCF Storm Identifier: **BCCYYYY**

BB - Ocean Basin

AL - North Atlantic basin...north of the Equator
SL - South Atlantic basin...south of the Equator
EP - North East Pacific basin...eastward of 140.0W
CP - North Central Pacific basin...between the Dateline
and 140.0W
WP - North West Pacific basin...westward of the
Dateline
IO - North Indian Ocean basin...north of the Equator
between 40.0E and 100.0E
SH - South Pacific Ocean Basin and South Indian Ocean
basin

CC - Cyclone Number

Numbers 01 through 49 are reserved for tropical and subtropical cyclones. A cyclone number is assigned to each tropical or subtropical cyclone in each basin as it develops. The numbers are assigned in chronological order.

Numbers 50 through 79 are reserved for internal use by operational forecast centers.

Numbers 80 through 89 are reserved for training, exercises and testing.

Numbers 90 through 99 are reserved for tropical disturbances which have the potential to become tropical or subtropical cyclones. Although not required, the 90's should be assigned sequentially and reused throughout the calendar year.

YYYY - Four-digit year

This is the calendar year for the Northern Hemisphere. For the Southern Hemisphere, the year begins July 1, with calendar year plus one.

2.0 This section provides guidance on initial assignment of ATCF Storm Identifiers for tropical and subtropical disturbances and cyclones and basin crossings.

2.1 Initial assignment of the ATCF Storm Identifier for tropical and subtropical disturbances 90 through 99.

In general, the operational forecast center with responsibility for the basin will assign the tropical or subtropical disturbance a storm identifier with the basin (BB) in which the disturbance exists, the next available 90's number in sequence and the year (YYYY). In East and Central North Pacific basins, the storm identifier will be coordinated between NHC/CPHC and JTWC as agreed upon by each respective forecast center.

Once assigned, if the tropical or subtropical disturbance crosses into another basin, the basin (BB) and 90's number will be re-basined and renumbered, respectively, for new basin and the next 90's number in that basin's 90's sequence.

2.2 Initial assignment of the ATCF Storm Identifier for tropical and subtropical cyclones 01 through 49.

The operational forecast center with responsibility for the basin will assign the tropical or subtropical cyclone a storm identifier with the basin (BB) in which the cyclone exists, the next chronological cyclone number and the year (YYYY). If the system was already being tracked as a tropical or subtropical disturbance in that basin, its 90's series number would be renumbered to the next chronological cyclone number.

Once assigned, if a tropical cyclone crosses into another basin or basins, it will retain its original storm identifier. The only exception to this occurs when a North Atlantic tropical or subtropical cyclone crosses into the East North Pacific basin or vice versa. In this case, the basin (BB) and the cyclone number will be re-basined and renumbered, respectively, for the new basin and the next chronological cyclone number for the new basin.