

Buoy Programme Checklist

(Version 0.1, 20/6/2007)

These are simple instructions for the shipping, checking, setting up, deployment, and data processing and distribution of a drifting buoy.

- A. Buoy have arrived
 - 1. Deal with customs
 - i. Get copies of shipping paperwork
 - ii. Maybe get official letter from IOC or WMO or DBCP
 - iii. Maybe ship to local UNDP office
 - 2. Who will pay Argos costs?
 - 3. Contact owner to confirm receipt and find out where and when to deploy, and permissible leeway
 - 4. Arrange secure, 24/7 accessible and inexpensive storage

- B. Find suitable ship
 - 1. Are there any research vessels in the area?
 - 2. Are there ships of opportunity?
 - 2.1. Check websites, e.g.
 - <http://www.sailwx.info/shiptrack/>
 - i. WMO website, PMO list, [Publication 47 - ship metadata \(Port Meteorological Officers\)](#)
 - ii. Local ports authority
 - iii. Shipping companies
 - 2.2. Get official letter from drifter donator, WMO or IOC if needed
 - 3. Issue deployment training and written instructions (see [example](#))
 - 4. Translate into appropriate language if needed (WMO and/or IOC can provide assistance if needed)

- C. Check that buoy is working
 - 1. Use Argos tester or beeper at least to check transmission
 - 1.1. Check that transmission is received by Argos
 - 1.2. Check that GTS technical file has been implemented by Argos
 - 2. Arrange transfer of buoys from storage to ship
 - 2.1. Check buoy again
 - 2.1.1. May need to get someone from institute to check Argos
 - 2.1.2. Consider leaving it switched on so that ship can be tracked etc
 - 2.2. Personally give buoy and deployment instructions to captain
 - 2.2.1. Remind captain to send deployment details and weather conditions to operator

D. Monitor buoy data - when deployment details have been received from ship:

1. Check that data is of good quality
 - 1.1 Compare with analysed fields etc
 - 1.2 Reply to captain to say thank you!
2. Contact operator/owner (GDC etc)

2.1 Forward deployment details

2.2 Ask the NFP for buoy programmes (or WMO directly if there is none) of the deploying country to assign a WMO ID. NFP obtains series of WMO numbers for the appropriate deployment areas directly from WMO. Details on WMO numbers and NFPs at

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/mmop/buoy-ids.html>

2.3 Request Argos to process the buoy and distribute the data on the GTS and provide Argos with WMO number, and GTS bulletin header. [DBCP GTS Information](#), JCOMM GTS Information [page](#).

[2.4 Advise the Program Coordinator of the appropriate Action Group about the buoy deployment - WMO Id, Argos Id, location, name of deploying vessel. Details on DBCP Action Groups](#)

2.5 Check that it really is on the GTS at [JCOMMOPS](#)

2.6 Check the QC sites (e.g. [Meteo France](#)), monitor drogue status