

EarthInfo Global Daily 2010

Data Flags

The Daily Data folder displays a row of daily values for each monthly record of the data elements (parameters) observed at the reporting stations. The values are supplemented with data flags, if and when applicable.

The data flags are displayed to the right of the associated daily value and are listed in the following order: MFLAG, QFLAG, SFLAG. An underline () indicates a blank flag.

The Global Historical Climatology Network (GHCN) provides the following explanation of these data flags:

MFLAG is the measurement flag. There are five possible values:

Blank = no measurement information applicable
B = precipitation total formed from two 12-hour totals
D = precipitation total formed from four six-hour totals
L = temperature appears to be lagged with respect to reported hour of observation
T = trace of precipitation, snowfall, or snow depth

QFLAG is the quality flag. There are fourteen possible values:

Blank = did not fail any quality assurance check
A = failed accumulation total check
D = failed duplicate check
G = failed gap check
I = failed internal consistency check
K = failed streak/frequent-value check
M = failed megaconsistency check
N = failed naught check
O = failed climatological outlier check
R = failed lagged range check
S = failed spatial consistency check
T = failed temporal consistency check
W = temperature too warm for snow
X = failed bounds check

SFLAG is the source flag. There are seventeen possible values:

Blank = no source (i.e., data value missing)
0 = U.S. Cooperative Summary of the Day (NCDC DSI-3200)
1 = U.S. Preliminary Cooperative Summary of the Day -- Transmitted
2 = U.S. Preliminary Cooperative Summary of the Day -- Keyed from paper forms
6 = CDMP Cooperative Summary of the Day (NCDC DSI-3206)
A = U.S. Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) real-time data (since January 1, 2006)

B = U.S. ASOS data for October 2000-December 2005 (NCDC DSI-3211)
F = U.S. Fort data
G = Official Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) or other
government-supplied data
H = High Plains Regional Climate Center real-time data
I = International collection (non U.S. data received through
personal contacts)
M = Monthly METAR Extract (additional ASOS data)
N = Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS)
Q = Data from several African countries that had been "quarantined"
and withheld from public release until permission was granted
from the respective meteorological services
R = NCDC Reference Network Database (Climate Reference Network and
Historical Climatology Network-Modernized)
S = Global Summary of the Day (NCDC DSI-9618)
NOTE: "S" values are derived from hourly synoptic reports
exchanged on the Global Telecommunications System (GTS)
Daily values derived in this fashion may differ significantly
from "true" daily data, particularly for precipitation (i.e.,
use with caution)
X = U.S. First Order Summary of the Day (NCDC DSI-3210)