Development of the IMMA Format
(Doc. 4.1)
Key Format Design Requirements

• Simplicity: so that Member countries can implement and manipulate

• Use ASCII and eliminate encodings (e.g., numeric, “/”)

• Flexibility & extensibility (e.g., historical)

• Abbreviated (“core”) record type useful

• BUFR physical format not appropriate

✓ However consider convergence w/ BUFR tables
**IMMA data/metadata mix: 1936-2005**

*Delayed-mode (DM) v. GTS (RT) data*

> GTS drifter reports consolidated in DM

WMO Pub. 47 1973- (upcoming: 1955-72)

DM ship/buoy/oceanographic data thru 1997

DM buoy data
Experience has demonstrated that translations of data frequently contain small (or >) errors, or are incomplete.

E.g., NCEP BUFR: kts/constant = m/s (unconfirmed):

1.9425 (NCEP) vs. 1.943844 (ICOADS): some Δ0.1m/s

(Doc. 3.3, Appendix M) (ICOADS uses International Nautical Mile)