

Product & Services Rules

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The ECMWF Product Distribution Rules

1 Governed centrally

All ECMWF products are distributed under the ECMWF Product Distribution Rules.

2 Binding on MS & CS

Every Member State and Co-operating State must comply — there are no local exceptions.

3 Rules define the catalogues & service rules

The Rules set out the catalogues, the licence attached to each, and the permitted use.

Scan the QR code to access the Product Distribution Rules:



THE ONE THING TO REMEMBER

The service agreement sits above the data licence

Two things decide what you can do

1 · SERVICE CONDITIONS & AGREEMENT

What you may use this access FOR. Privileged services — Full MARS Client, HPC, ECFS, EWC — are for Official Duty & Research only. Fee Waiver agreements prevent commercial use.

2 · CATALOGUE / LICENCE

What you may then do with the data itself IF you have used a permitted service.

= YOUR PERMITTED USE

Only what both layers allow. A permissive data licence does not unlock a privileged service.

The infrastructure is for Official Duty and Research

EWC · HPC · ECFS · ectrans — and the rest of the ECMWF infrastructure

Official Duty & Research only

The majority of ECMWF infrastructure is provided for Official Duty and Research purposes

No time-critical suites for commercial gain

Operational suites must not run to generate commercial revenue.

No charging for services

No MS/CS may charge third parties for services delivered on ECMWF infrastructure.

Services that access MARS



Full MARS Client (usually via HPC)



Polytope (only to access data on disk) – new service!



WebAPI (external access to MARS, but your user privileges control what you can access)

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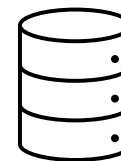
WebAPI (external access to MARS, but your user privileges control what you can access)

Catalogues of MARS

MS/CS privileged users and ECMWF **only!!!**



MARS Catalogue:
<https://apps.ecmwf.int/mars-catalogue/>

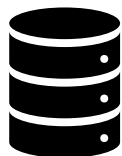


Contents of Archive Catalogue are **open licence** (but may have access charge)!

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Catalogues of MARS

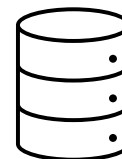
MS/CS privileged users and
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MARS Catalogue:

<https://apps.ecmwf.int/mars-catalogue/>

- Contains all data that ECMWF receives (including observations)
- Contains all data that ECMWF produces and saves (not ENS Model levels)
- Contains Member State experiments
- Contains ECMWF experiments
- Contains ECMWF forecast products that are openly licensed



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Archive Catalogue:

<https://apps.ecmwf.int/archive-catalogue/>

- Contains ECMWF forecast products that are openly licensed

Very
safe to
share!!

Full MARS access is privileged — and conditional

Full MARS Client is provided to MS/CS for **Official Duty and Research**.

That is the condition of access, regardless of the volume or detail it can reach.

Full MARS Clients can access the contents of the MARS Catalogue, and a lot of this data is **restricted**.

NOT PERMITTED VIA FULL MARS CLIENT

- Commercial activity
- Bids and tenders
- Selling products or services built on it

WHAT IT IS FOR

- Official Duty of the NMHS
- Research
- Internal operational use within that remit

Dissemination — the agreement decides

Dissemination runs on a service agreement.

Whether you may use the data commercially depends on that agreement, not on the data alone.



Fee waiver (free)

Dissemination is provided free of charge. The data may NOT be used for commercial activity.



Paid dissemination

You pay for the service. Commercial use is fine, within the terms of the agreement.

Member and Co-operating States may use dissemination for their institute for Official Duty and Research purposes. Beyond this, any commercial activity must be done within their own infrastructure (including distribution onwards).

Keep privileged access clean — get the right agreement

An MS/CS that wants to compete in the commercial market must not rely on privileged access.

There are two clean routes:



A commercial agreement

Obtain a commercial licence covering the intended commercial use.



A catalogue-restricted account

Hold a separate account restricted to the relevant commercial catalogues, kept apart from Official-Duty access.

Different levels of access for the public

Beyond MS/CS, ECMWF makes data available to the public through tiered access.

Free & open

Published openly under an open licence — e.g. ECMWF open data. Free to access, reuse and redistribute within the licence terms.

Open but with charges

Accessible to the public, but subject to charges — the catalogue sets the fee and the permitted use.

Different services carry different agreements

The service you use has its own agreement or conditions—and they can be stricter than the data's **licence**. The agreement or service conditions win.

SERVICE	WHAT ITS AGREEMENT PERMITS
Full MARS Client	Official Duty & Research — never commercial
HPC · ECFS · EWC · ecTrans · Polytope...	Official Duty & Research only
Dissemination (ECPDS)	Per the agreement — fee waiver is non-commercial; paid is fine
Open data service	Open licence — free & open
Commercial access	Commercial use — arranged through Data Support

Need ECMWF data for commercial activity? Talk to User Services and we're happy to help!



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