

A standard form is used to assess for each link in the chain:

- **Minimum Requirement Points**

The locally assessed minimum standard required to provide effective flood warnings.

- **Achievement Points**

The level of performance actually achieved by the link in a particular flood event.

- **Deficit Points**

Achievement Points minus Minimum Requirement Points.

Negative Deficit Points mean that the component in question has fallen below the standard judged necessary and management action is required to remedy this. An overall measure of the performance of the flood forecasting system in the flood event is obtained by summing all the negative Deficit Points and expressing them as a percentage of the total Minimum Requirement Points. The system operates in conjunction with a set of trigger levels which, when exceeded (or forecasted to be exceeded), would result in pre-specified actions such as calling out the emergency services. A lead time is associated with each trigger level and is the time required for effective dissemination of warnings and subsequent action (e.g. evacuation). The MOFFS manual, now in its third version, gives rules for deciding the Minimum Requirement Points and the Achievement Points.

The system is applied regularly by 13 countries in 25 river basins, ranging in size from 90 to over 100,000 km².

LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF A FLOOD FORECASTING SYSTEM

Hydrometric Facilities:

- Meteorological Forecasts
- Satellite and Radar Data
- River Gauge Network
- Standard of River Gauges
- Standard of Main Forecast Site

Data Transmission and Processing

- Receipt of Meteorological Forecasts
- Receipt of Satellite and Radar Data
- Rainfall Data Transmission
- River Gauge Data Transmission
- Main Forecasting Site Transmission
- Data Forecasting Time Limit
- Model Type and Operation
- Flood Forecasting Centre Facilities

Issuing Forecasts and Warnings

- Reliability of Forecasts
- Dissemination to Next Users
- Dissemination to End-Users