The format prescribed by the NGDC always begins with the '40' NOAA SID identifier code. The AAVSO SID Coordinator assigns observer codes after the station is operating correctly and data is received regularly from that observer.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Column** |  | **Description** |
| 1-2 |  | Data code; always 40 |
| 3-5 |  | Blank |
| 6-7 |  | Year |
| 8-9 |  | Month |
| 10-11 |  | Day |
| 12-13 |  | Blank |
| 14-17 |  | Start time; UT hours and minutes event began |
| 18 |  | Start time qualifier; D = after, E = before, U = uncertain |
| 19-22 |  | End time; UT hours and minutes event ended |
| 23 |  | End time qualifier; D, E, U |
| 24-27 |  | Maximum time; UT hours and minutes of event maximum |
| 28 |  | Maximum time qualifier; D, E, U |
| 29-44 |  | Blank |
| 45-46 |  | SID Importance; sign in column 46 |
| 47-50 |  | Blank |
| 51 |  | Definiteness |
| 52-55 |  | Code for monitored transmitter. The field consists of the final two station call letters and the two numbers which represent the frequency (kHz). The latter is rounded to the nearest integer. Example; the code for NSS at 21.4 kHz is recorded as SS21 |
| 56-69 |  | Blank |
| 70-72 |  | Observer code; Example A82 |

For more information you can contact the SID Group Chairman and Data Analyst  
Rodney Howe ([ahowe@frii.com](mailto:ahowe@frii.com))

Or contact the AAVSO directly:

American Association of Variable Star Observers

49 Bay State Road

Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: (617) 354-0484