

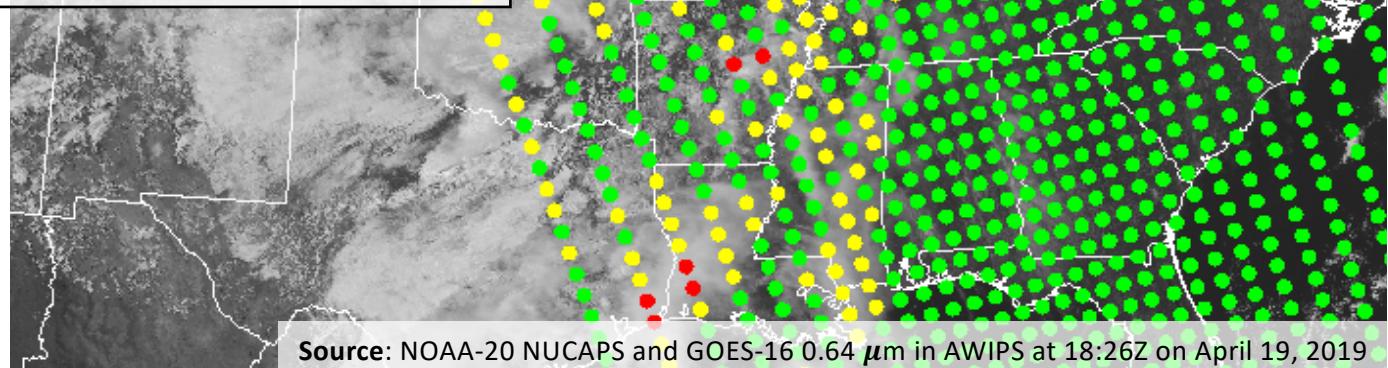
# Quick Guide



## What are Quality Flags in NUCAPS Sounding Products?

Within AWIPS, NUCAPS **quality flags** allow forecasters to quickly interpret retrieval robustness before interrogating sounding profiles.

This guide highlights how to understand and compare the AWIPS quality flags to those in the environmental data records (EDR) netCDF files from NOAA CLASS (<https://www.class.noaa.gov>).



Source: NOAA-20 NUCAPS and GOES-16 0.64  $\mu\text{m}$  in AWIPS at 18:26Z on April 19, 2019

In the EDR file, there is a variable called 'Quality\_Flag.' Values in this field correspond to the following AWIPS dot colors below:

AWIPS Dot Color	EDR Quality Flag	Meaning
Green	0	<i>Clear Sky/Partly Clear Conditions</i> <b>Successful</b> infrared (IR) + microwave (MW) NUCAPS retrieval.
Yellow	1, 16, or 17	<i>Cloudy Conditions</i> <b>Failed</b> IR+MW retrieval. <b>Successful</b> MW-only retrieval
Red	9 or 25	<i>Precipitating Conditions</i> <b>Failed</b> IR+MW retrieval. <b>Failed</b> MW-only retrieval.

# Quick Guide



Green	Yellow	Red
0 Successful infrared (IR) + microwave (MW) NUCAPS retrieval under clear or partly clear conditions.	1, 16, or 17 (16+1) Failed combined IR+MW NUCAPS retrieval. Successful MW-only NUCAPS retrieval under cloudy conditions.	9 (8+1) or 25 (8+16+1) Failed combined IR+MW NUCAPS retrieval. Failed MW-only NUCAPS retrieval under precipitating cloudy conditions.

