

The 17 ARFOR Areas



Met Abbreviations

// ¹	Weather not detected due sensor temporarily inoperative
/// ¹	Cloud is detected (unable to determine TCU/CB)
//// ¹	Visibility not reported due faulty sensor
///// ¹	Cloud not reported due faulty sensor
-	Light
(blank space)	Moderate (when included before a weather phenomenon)
+	Heavy
9999	Visibility 10 km or more
ABT	About
AC	Altostratus
AD QNH	Aerodrome QNH forecast
AGL	Above ground level
AIP	Aeronautical Information Publication
AIREP	Routine air report from aircraft in flight
AIREP SPECIAL	Special (non-routine) air report from aircraft in flight
AMD	Amended
AMSL	Above mean sea level
ARFOR	Area forecast
AS	Altostratus
AT	At
ATIS	Automatic terminal information service
ATS	Air traffic services
AWIB	Aerodrome and weather information broadcast
AWS	Automatic weather station (produces METAR AUTO)
BC	Patches
BECMG	Becoming
BKN	Broken (5-7 oktas)
BL	Blowing
BLW	Below
BR	Mist (1000-5000 m vis)
BTN	Between
BWR	Basic weather report
CAT	Clear air turbulence
CAVOK ²	Cloud and visibility OK
CB	Cumulonimbus
CLD	Cloud
COR	Corrected
CU	Cumulus
DP	Dew point temperature
DR	Low drifting
DS	Dust storm
DTG	Date time group
DU	Dust
DZ	Drizzle
EMBD	Embedded
EST	Estimated
FC	Funnel cloud
FCST	Forecast
FEW	Few (1-2 oktas)
FG	Fog (visibility less than 1000 m)
FIR	Flight information region

FISB	Flight information service broadcast
FL	Flight level
FM	From
FREQ	Frequent (only used in ARFOR)
FRQ	Frequent
FU	Smoke
FZ	Freezing
FZL	Freezing level
G	Gusts
GR	Hail (5 mm or more)
GS	Small hail (smaller than 5 mm)
GSM	Graphical SIGMET Monitor
HVY	Heavy
HZ	Haze (visibility less than 5000 m)
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICE	Icing
IFR	Instrument flight rules
IMC	Instrument meteorological conditions
INTSF	Intensifying
ISOL	Isolated
KM	Kilometres
KT	Knots
LYR	Layer
M	Metres
MAX	Maximum
METAR	Aerodrome routine meteorological report
METAR AUTO	Automatic aerodrome routine meteorological report
MI	Shallow
MOD	Moderate
MOV	Moving
MS	Minus
MTW	Mountain waves
NC	No change
NCD ¹	No cloud detected
NM	Nautical miles
NOSIG	No significant change
NOTAM	Notice to airmen
NS	Nimbostratus
NSC ²	No significant cloud
NSW	Nil significant weather
NXT	Next
NZZC	New Zealand FIR
NZZO	Auckland Oceanic FIR
OBS	Observed
OBSC	Obscured
OCNL	Occasional
OPMET	Operational meteorological information
OVC	Overcast (8 oktas)
PIREP	Pilot report (AIREP)
PL	Ice pellets
PO	Dust/sand whirls
PR	Partial
PROB	Probability
PS	Plus

PSN	Position
QNH	Altimeter sub-scale setting
RA	Rain
RE	Recent
RMK	Remark
ROFOR	Route forecast
RVR	Runway visual range
SA	Sand
SC	Stratocumulus
SCT	Scattered (3-4 oktas)
SEV	Severe
SFC	Surface
SG	Snow grains
SH	Shower
SIG	Significant
SIGMET	Significant meteorological information
SIGWX	Significant weather forecast
SKC ³	Sky clear (no cloud at all)
SN	Snow
SPECI	Aerodrome special meteorological report
SO	Squall
SS	Sandstorm
ST	Stratus
STNR	Stationary
T	Temperature, in degrees Celcius
TAF	Aerodrome forecast
TC	Tropical cyclone
TCU	Towering cumulus
TEMPO	Temporarily
TL	Till
TREND	Trend forecast
TS	Thunderstorm
TURB	Turbulence
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
V	Variations from mean wind direction
VA	Volcanic ash
VAA	Volcanic Ash Advisory
VAAC	Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre
VAG	Volcanic Ash Graphic
VC	Vicinity of the aerodrome
VFR	Visual flight rules
VIS	Visibility
VMC	Visual meteorological conditions
VRB	Variable
VV	Vertical visibility
WKN	Weakening
WDSPR	Widespread
WS	Windshear
WX	Weather
Z	Coordinated Universal Time

1 used in METAR AUTO only
 2 only used in TREND/TAF for NZAA, NZWN, NZCH
 3 not used in METAR AUTO or TAF/TREND for NZAA, NZWN, NZCH