

Code for significant present and forecast weather at the aerodrome

(Weather within 8 km of the aerodrome reference point)

Qualifier		Weather Phenomena		
Intensity or Proximity	Descriptor	Precipitation	Obscuration	Other
- Light	SH Shower(s)	DZ Drizzle	BR Mist	SQ Squall
Moderate (no qualifier)	TS Thunderstorm	RA Rain	FG Fog	FC Funnel cloud(s) (Tornadoes or water spouts)
+ Heavy	MI Shallow	GS Small Hail and/or snow pellets	HZ Haze	
VC In the vicinity	BC Patches		FU Smoke	PO Dust/sand whirls (dust devils)
	PR Partial (covering part of the aerodrome)	GR Hail	VA Volcanic Ash	SS Sandstorm
	DR Low Drifting	SN Snow	DU Widespread Dust	DS Dust storm
	BL Blowing	SG Snow Grains	SA Sand	
	FZ Freezing (super cooled)	PL Ice Pellets		
		IC Ice Crystals (Diamond Dust)		

Notes:

- The weather groups described above are primarily set out in such a way that by following simple rules (as set out in Notes 3 to 8 below), the most appropriate description(s) of the present weather entered into an encoded METAR or SPECI message can be decoded.
- Any of the groups or combinations of groups described above, with the exception of the term VC, may be used to forecast weather phenomena in TREND, TAF, VOLMET and ARFOR products.

The following notes apply exclusively to the way that present weather is encoded in METAR and SPECI reports:

- The weather group(s) are coded by combining appropriate abbreviations from each column working from left to right e.g. a heavy shower of rain is encoded as: +SHRA.
- If there is more than one weather phenomenon, up to 3 separate groups are encoded in the same order as the columns in the table e.g. light drizzle and fog is encoded as: -DZ FG.
- An exception to the above rule is that the groups for more than one form of precipitation are joined together with the dominant type first e.g. SNRA indicates moderate snow and rain (sleet), with snow the dominant precipitation.
- GS signifies that the largest hailstones are less than 5 mm in diameter, otherwise GR is used.
- VC (in the vicinity) denotes "between 8 km and 16 km from the aerodrome reference point", and is used to indicate only the following significant weather phenomena observed in the vicinity of the aerodrome: TS, DS, SS, FG, FC, SH, PO, BLDU, BLSA, BLSN and VA. The abbreviation VCFG is used to report any type of fog observed in the vicinity of the aerodrome.
- In the absence of any precipitation;
 - FG (fog) is used when visibility is less than 1000 m.
 - BR (mist) is used when visibility is between 1000 m and 5000 m.
 - HZ (haze) is used when visibility is less than 5000 m, and the reduction is caused by something other than water droplets or ice crystals.