

# Change and amendment criteria for aerodrome forecast (TAF)

In accordance with Annex V (Part-MET) to Regulation (EU)  
2017/373.

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## 1 Introduction

The following tables provide information on the change and amendment criteria for aerodrome forecast (TAF) as expressed in MET.TR.220(f) of Annex V (Part-MET) to [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/373](#) and its related Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM) as **at 20 April 2020**.

**Consult State AIP and/or designated MET Service Provider for any deviations to the criteria below.**

**The tables below are not subject to automatic update. In the event of differences between the tables below and MET.TR.220(f) of Annex V (Part-MET) to Regulation (EU) 2017/373 and its related AMC/GM, then MET.TR.220(f) of Annex V (Part-MET) to Regulation (EU) 2017/373 and its related AMC/GM shall prevail.**

**Criteria for military aerodromes may be different to those for civil aerodromes.**

## 2 Tables

### 2.1 Wind

Consult State AIP and/or designated MET Service Provider for any deviations to the criteria below.

Forecast wind criteria	TAF encoding	Meaning
When the mean surface wind direction to change by 60 degrees or more, the mean speed before and/or after the change being 10 knots or more.	Mean surface direction rounded to 10 degrees (true), in steps of 10 degrees. Mean surface wind speed, in whole knots.	If the wind speed is 10 knots or more the actual wind direction can be up to 50 degrees either side of the forecast wind direction.  Example: '26012KT' in the TAF means that the actual wind can be from 210 to 310 degrees before a change or amendment is necessary.  If the wind is less than 10 knots, then changes of wind direction will not be indicated.  Example: '15008KT' in the TAF means that although the most likely wind is expected to be 8 kt from 150 degrees, the wind may actually come from any direction if the mean surface wind speed remains less than 10 knots. If the wind were to increase to 10 knots or more, and be from a direction of 60 degrees or more from 150, then a change would be required, i.e. '15008KT...BECMG...04012KT' ( <i>Note 1</i> )
When the mean surface wind speed is forecasted to change by 10 KT or more.	The mean surface wind speed in steps of 1 knot.	The actual mean wind speed can be up to 10 KT higher or lower than that forecast.  For example: '22015KT' in the TAF means that the actual mean wind speed can be from 6 knots to 24 knots before a change or amendment is necessary.
When the variation from the mean surface wind speed (gusts) is forecasted to change by 10 knots or more, the mean speed before and/or after the change being 15 KT or more.	The gust wind speed in steps of 1 knot ( <i>Note 2</i> )	The actual gust wind speed can be up to 10 KT higher or lower than that forecast.  For example: '22015G30KT' in the TAF means that the actual gust wind speed can be from 21 knots to 39 knots before a change or amendment is necessary.
<p><i>Note 1: In this example only the initial wind group, a 'BECMG' indicator and the new wind group are given. A real TAF would include day/time groups and other elements.</i></p> <p><i>Note 2: The gust wind speed is only included in a TAF when the forecasted gust wind speed exceeds the forecasted mean wind speed by 10 knots or more.</i></p>		

## 2.2 Visibility

Consult State AIP and/or designated MET Service Provider for any deviations to the criteria below.

**When the visibility is forecasted to improve and change to or pass through one or more of the following values, or when the visibility is forecasted to deteriorate and pass through one or more of the following values:**

(1) 150, 350, 600, 800, 1 500 or 3 000 m; and

(2) 5 000 m in cases where significant numbers of flights are operated in accordance with the visual flight rules.

Forecast prevailing visibility criteria (Note 1)	TAF encoding	Meaning
5 000 m and above (Note 2)	'5000' to '9000' in steps of 1000, and '9999'	For example: '7000' in a TAF means that the visibility may be 5 000 metres or greater. More importantly, '9999' in a TAF (10 KM or more) means that a change group (or amendment) is not required unless the visibility falls/is expected to fall below 5 000 metres (Note 3).
3 000 m to 4 900 m	'3000' to '4900' in steps of 100	For example: '4000' means that visibility may be 3 000 to 4 900 metres (Note 3).
1 500 m to 2 900 m	'1500' to '2900' in steps of 100	For example: '2500' means that visibility may be 1 500 to 2 900 metres
800 m to 1 400 m	'800' to '1500' in steps of 100	For example: '1000' means that visibility may be 800 to 1 400 metres
600 m to 700 m	'600' to '700' in steps of 50	For example: '0700' means that visibility may be 600 to 700 metres
350 m to 500 m	'350' to '550' in steps of 50	For example: '0500' means that visibility may be 350 to 500 metres
150 m to 300 m	'150' to '300' in steps of 50	For example: '0300' means that visibility may be 150 to 300 metres
Less than 150 m	'0' to '100' in steps of 50	For example: '0100' means that visibility may be 0 to 100 metres

Note 1: Visibility in TAF is the prevailing visibility. Prevailing visibility is the greatest visibility value, observed in accordance with the definition of 'visibility', which is reached within at least half the horizon circle or within at least half of the surface of the aerodrome. These areas could comprise contiguous or non-contiguous sectors.

Note 2: Only applicable if significant numbers of flights are operated in accordance with the visual flight rules.

Note 3: At aerodromes where there are not a significant numbers of flights operated in accordance with the visual flight rules and the 5 000 metre threshold does not apply, '9999' would mean that a change group (or amendment) is not required unless the visibility falls/is expected to fall below 3 000 metres.

Note 4: At aerodromes where there are not a significant numbers of flights operated in accordance with the visual flight rules and the 5 000 metre threshold does not apply, '4000' would mean 3 000 metres or greater.

## 2.3 Weather

**Consult State AIP and/or designated MET Service Provider for any deviations to the criteria below.**

Forecast weather criteria	Meaning
<p>When any of the following weather phenomena, or combinations thereof, are forecasted to begin or end, or change in intensity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) freezing fog;</li> <li>(ii) freezing precipitation;</li> <li>(iii) moderate or heavy precipitation (including showers thereof);</li> <li>(iv) thunderstorm;</li> <li>(v) dust storm;</li> <li>(vi) sandstorm.</li> </ul>	<p>If any of the specified phenomena are expected to commence, or when already occurring are expected to cease or change in intensity, then a change group will be required.</p>
<p>When any of the following weather phenomena, or combinations thereof, are forecasted to begin or end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) low drifting dust, sand or snow;</li> <li>(2) blowing dust, sand or snow;</li> <li>(3) squall; and</li> <li>(4) funnel cloud (tornado or waterspout);</li> </ul>	<p>If any of the specified phenomena are expected to commence, or when already occurring are expected to end, then a change group will be required.</p>

## 2.4 Cloud

Consult State AIP and/or designated MET Service Provider for any deviations to the criteria below.

**When the height of base of the lowest layer or mass of cloud of BKN or OVC extent is forecasted to lift and change to or pass through one or more of the following values, or when the height of the lowest layer or mass of cloud of BKN or OVC extent is forecasted to lower and pass through one or more of the following values:**

(1) 100, 200, 500 or 1 000 ft (30, 60, 150 or 300 m); or

(2) 1 500 ft (450 m) in cases where significant numbers of flights are operated in accordance with the visual flight rules.

Forecast height (above aerodrome level)	TAF encoding for BKN or OVC (in 100s of feet)	Meaning
1 500 ft ( <i>Note 1</i> ) and above; or 'no significant cloud' (NSC)	'BKN015' or 'OVC015' and higher;' or 'NSC'	For example: 'BKN030', or 'NSC' in a TAF means that the actual cloud base may be BKN at 1 500 ft or higher or OVC at 1 500 ft or higher ( <i>Note 2</i> )
1 000 ft to 1 400 ft	'BKN010' or 'OVC010' to 'BKN014' or 'OVC014'	For example: 'BKN012' in a TAF means that the actual cloud base may be: BKN or OVC at 1 000 ft to BKN or OVC at 1 400 ft ( <i>Note 3</i> )
500 ft to 900 ft	'BKN005' or 'OVC005' to 'BKN009' or 'OVC009'	For example: 'BKN008' in a TAF means that the actual cloud base may be: BKN or OVC at 500 ft to BKN or OVC at 900 ft
200 ft to 400 ft	'BKN002' or 'OVC002' to 'BKN004' or 'OVC004'	For example: 'BKN003' in a TAF means that the actual cloud base may be: BKN or OVC at 200 ft to BKN or OVC at 400 ft
100 ft or less (including sky obscured)	'BKN000' or 'OVC000' to 'BKN001' or 'OVC001'	For example: 'BKN001' in a TAF means that the actual cloud base may be: BKN or OVC at the surface to BKN or OVC 100 ft
When the amount of a layer or mass of cloud below 1 500 ft is forecast to change: (1) from NSC, FEW or SCT to BKN or OVC; or (2) from BKN or OVC to NSC, FEW or SCT;		For example: 'FEW008' in a TAF means that the actual cloud amount may be FEW (1-2 oktas) or SCT008 (3-4 oktas) at any height (although most likely at 800 ft). If the amount were to change to BKN at 800 ft, then a change group would be required.
<p><i>Note 1: Only applicable if significant numbers of flights are operated in accordance with the visual flight rules.</i></p> <p><i>Note 2 At aerodromes where there are not a significant numbers of flights operated in accordance with the visual flight rules and the 1 500 foot threshold does not apply, a change group (or amendment) is not required unless BKN or OVC cloud base is expected to fall below 1 000 ft.</i></p> <p><i>Note 3: At aerodromes where there are not a significant number of flights operated in accordance with the visual flight rules and the 1 500 foot threshold does not apply, 'BKN012' would mean BKN or OVC at 1 000 feet or higher.</i></p>		

## 2.5 Vertical Visibility

Consult State AIP and/or designated MET Service Provider for any deviations to the criteria below.

When the vertical visibility is forecasted to improve and change to or pass through one or more of the following values, or when the vertical visibility is forecasted to deteriorate and pass through one or more of the following values: 100, 200, 500 or 1 000 ft (30, 60, 150 or 300 m)		
Forecast vertical visibility (above aerodrome level)	TAF encoding (in 100s of feet)	Meaning
1 000 ft or greater	'VV010' or greater	For example: 'VV012' in a TAF means that the actual vertical visibility may be 1 000 ft or greater
500 ft to 900 ft	'VV005' to 'VV009'	For example: 'VV008' in a TAF means that the actual vertical visibility may be 500 ft to 900 ft
200 ft to 400 ft	'VV002' to 'VV004'	For example: 'VV003' in a TAF means that the actual vertical visibility may be: 200 ft to 400 ft
100 ft or less	'VV000' to 'VV001'	For example: 'VV001' in a TAF means that the actual vertical visibility may be: 0 ft to 100 ft
Unknown	'VV///'	'VV///' in a TAF means that the forecast vertical visibility is unknown