

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 waterspouts)
+	Heavy	MI	Shallow	GS	Small hail and/or snow pellets	HZ	Haze	PO	Dust/sand whirls (dust devils)
VC	In the vicinity	BC	Patches	GR	Hail	FU	Smoke	SS	Sandstorm
		PR	Partial (covering part of the aerodrome)	SN	Snow	VA	Volcanic Ash	DS	Dust storm
		DR	Low Drifting	SG	Snow Grains	DU	Widespread Dust		
		BL	Blowing	PL	Ice Pellets	SA	Sand		
		FZ	Freezing (super cooled)	IC	Ice Crystals (diamond dust)				

Notes:

1. The weather groups described above are primarily set out in such a way that by following simple rules (as set out in Notes 4 to 9 below), the most appropriate description(s) of the present weather entered into an encoded METAR or SPECI message can be decoded.
2. Any of the groups or combinations of groups described above, except for the term VC, may be used to forecast weather phenomena in TAF and GRAFOR products.
3. Precipitation rates are measured as light, moderate or heavy based on the accumulation rate per hour as follows:
 - a. Light Between a trace of rain and < 2.5mm/hour
 - b. Moderate > 2.5mm/hour and ≤ 10mm/hour
 - c. Heavy > 10mm/hour

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

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. An exception to the above rule is that the groups for more than one form of precipitation are joined with the dominant type first e.g. SNRA indicates moderate snow and rain (sleet), with snow the dominant precipitation.
7. GS signifies that the largest hailstones are less than 5 mm in diameter, otherwise GR is used.
8. 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.
9. In the absence of any precipitation:
 - a. FG (fog) is used when visibility is less than 1000 m.
 - b. BR (mist) is used when visibility is between 1000 m and 5000 m.
 - c. 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