Met. decodes Aerodrome forecast – TAF decode

Code element	Example	Decode		Notes
1 Report type	TAF	'Terminal Aerodrome Forecast'		Name for an aerodrome forecast
2 Location	EGSS	'London Stansted'		Station four-letter ICAO indicator
3 Date/Time of origin Zulu is equivalent to UTC	130500Z	'For the 13th at oh, five, hundred, Zulu'		
4 Validity time	1306/1406	'Valid from oh, six, hundred on the 13th to,	oh, six, hundred on the 14th	UTC (Greenwich Mean Time)
5 Wind	31015G25KT	'Three one zero degrees, fifteen knots,	max twenty five knots'	VRB = Variable; 00000KT = calm. *Wind direction is given in degrees true*
6 Prevailing visibility or CAVOK*	8000	'Eight kilometres'		9999 = 10 km or more; 0000 = less than 50 metres
7 Significant weather	-SHRA	'Light rain showers'		See present weather table on METAR (page 18) for details; NSW = No significant weather
8 Cloud	FEW005 SCT010 SCT018CB BKN025	'Few at five hundred feet, scattered at one thousand feet, scattered cumulonimbus at one thousand eight hundred feet. Broken at two thousand five hundred feet'		FEW = 1-2 oktas; SCT = 3-4 oktas; BKN = 5-7 oktas; OVC = 8 oktas; 'VV///' = state of sky obscured (cloud base not discernible); figures in lieu of '///' give forecast vertical visibility in hundreds of feet. NSC = no significant cloud (none below 5,000 feet and no TCU or CB) TCU and CB will be the only cloud types specified. Cloud heights are given in feet above airfield height.
9 Significant changes *Probability* *Time* *Change indicator* *Met. groups*	PROB30 1314/1316 BECMG 1314/1316 FM131400 TSRA BKN010CB	'30% probability' 'from fourteen hundred on the 13th to the 13th,' or 'becoming from fourteen sixteen hundred on the 13th' or 'from the 13th' followed by 'Thunderstorm with cumulonimbus at one thousand feet'	sixteen hundred on hundred on the 13th to fourteen hundred on the 13th rain, broken	Only 30% or 40% probability will be used. Indicates beginning and end time of forecast period in UTC. Also TEMPO = temporarily may be used. Met. group follows indicating a change in some or all of the elements forecast in the first part of the TAF.

* CAVOK will replace visibility and cloud groups.

Note: CNL may be used to indicate that a TAF is cancelled.

Example 1. 24-hr TAF

FTUK32 EGGY 110500
EGPK 110500Z 1106/1206 13010KT 9000 BKN010
BECMG 1106/1108 BKN018 PROB30 TEMPO 1108/1116 17025G40KT 4000 TSRA
BKN012CB BECMG 1118/1121 3000 BR NSC=

Decode
Twenty four-hour TAF issued at 0500 UTC on the 11th. Prestwick valid from oh six hundred on the 11th to oh six hundred on the 12th. Wind one three zero degrees ten knots. Nine kilometres visibility. Broken at one thousand feet. Becoming from oh six hundred on the 11th to oh eight hundred on the 11th, broken at one thousand eight hundred feet. 30% probability, temporarily between oh eight hundred on the 11th to sixteen hundred on the 11th, wind one seven zero degrees twenty five knots, gusting to forty knots. Four thousand metres visibility. Thunderstorm with moderate rain. Broken cumulonimbus at one thousand two hundred feet. Becoming from eighteen hundred on the 11th to twenty one hundred on the 11th, three thousand metres visibility, mist, no significant cloud.

Example 2. 9-hr TAF

FCUK33 EGGY 300800
EGTE 300800Z 3009/3018 23010KT 9999 SCT010 BKN018 BECMG 3011/3014
6000 -RA BKN012 TEMPO 3014/3018 2000 DZ OVC004 =

Decode
Nine-hour TAF issued at 0800 Zulu on the 30th. Exeter valid from oh nine hundred on the 30th to eighteen hundred Zulu on the 30th. Wind two three zero degrees ten knots. Ten kilometres or more visibility. Scattered at one thousand feet. Broken at one thousand eight hundred feet. Becoming from eleven hundred on the 30th to fourteen hundred on the 30th, six kilometres, slight rain. Broken at one thousand two hundred feet. Temporarily between fourteen hundred on the 30th to eighteen hundred on the 30th. Two thousand metres visibility. Moderate drizzle. Overcast four hundred feet.