### Cloud height

The cloud height is the distance from the base of clouds (or cloud ceiling) and the top of the clouds in a certain layer. These layers are approximately divided into different zones due to international rules.

It is very important to know the height of clouds. High clouds are primarily composed of ice crystals; Medium clouds are a mixture of water droplets (usually super-cooled) and ice crystals, in varying proportion, and low clouds primarily water droplets.

Cloud height is often related to the intensity of precipitation generated by a cloud: deeper clouds tend to produce more intense rainfall. For instance, cumulonimbus clouds can develop vertically through a substantial part of the troposphere and often result in thunderstorms with lightning and heavy showers. By contrast, very thin clouds (such as cirrus clouds) do not generate any precipitation at the surface.

In the 'Low' cloud classification come: Stratus (St); Stratocumulus (Sc); Cumulus (Cu) and Cumulonimbus (Cb). However, note that both Cumulus and Cumulonimbus clouds often extend well into 'medium' levels, and towering Cu, and Cb extend to 'high' levels.

In the 'Medium' cloud class come: Altostratus (As); Altocumulus (Ac) and Nimbostratus (Ns). Nimbostratus often has a base within the 'low' cloud category.

In the 'High' cloud group are: Cirrus (Ci); Cirrocumulus (Cc) and Cirrostratus (Cs).

### Amount

Cloud cover (also known as cloudiness, cloudage or cloud amount) refers to the fraction of the sky obscured by clouds when observed from a particular location.

The amount of the sky that is obscured is defined in octa. So if there are no clouds the sky is 0/8 obscured. The following amounts are available”

* FEW sky is obscured form 1/8 to 2/8
* SCT sky is obscured from 3/8 to 4/8
* BKN sky is obscured form 5/8 to 7/8
* OVC sky is completely obscured 8/8

The abbreviations stands for the following, to make it easier to understand.

* Few Few
* SCT Scattered
* BKN Broken
* OVC Overcast