

Metar and taf codes for personal use only Fly and Learn

Abbreviation	Description	Example
\$	maintenance check indicator	- light intensity
+	heavy intensity	/ separator between temperature and dew point data
ACC	altocumulus castellanus	ACFT MSH mishap
ACSL	altocumulus standing lenticular cloud	AO1 automated station without precipitation discriminator
AO2	automated station with precipitation discriminator	ALP airport location point
APCH	approach	APRNT apparent
APRX	approximately	ATCT airport traffic control tower
AUTO	fully automated report	B began
BC	patches	BKN broken
BL	blowing	BR mist
C	center (with reference to runway designation)	CA cloud-air lightning
CB	cumulonimbus cloud	CBMAM cumulonimbus mammatus cloud
CC	cloud-cloud lightning	CCSL cirrocumulus standing lenticular cloud
cd	candela	CG cloud-ground lightning
CHI	cloud-height indicator	CHINO sky condition at secondary location not available
CIG	ceiling	CLR clear
CONS	continuous	COR correction to a previously disseminated observation
DOC	Department of Commerce	DOD Department of Defense
DOT	Department of Transportation	DR low drifting
DS	duststorm	DSIPTG dissipating
DSNT	distant	DU widespread dust
DVR	dispatch visual range	-
DZ	drizzle	E east, ended, estimated ceiling (SAO)

FAA	Federal Aviation Administration	FC funnel cloud
FEW	few clouds	FG fog
FIBI	filed but impracticable to transmit	FIRST first observation after a break in coverage at manual station
FMH-1	Federal Meteorological Handbook- No.1, Surface Weather Observations & Reports (METAR)	
FMH2	Federal Meteorological Handbook- No.2, Surface Synoptic Codes	
FRQ	frequent	
FT	feet	
FZ	freezing	
G	gust	
GS	small hail and/or snow pellets	
HZ	haze	
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	
INTMT	intermittent	
L	left (with reference to runway designation)	
LST	Local Standard Time	
LWR	lower	
max	maximum	
MI	shallow	
MOV	moved/moving/movement	
N	north	
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center	
NOS	National Ocean Survey	
NOTAM	Notice to Airmen	
NWS	National Weather Service	
OFCM	Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology	
OVC	overcast	
P	indicates greater than the highest reportable value	
PL	ice pellets	
PNO	precipitation amount not available	
PRES	pressure	
PRESFR	pressure falling rapidly	
PWINO	precipitation identifier sensor not available	
R	right (with reference to runway designation), runway	
RTD	Routine Delayed (late) observation	
RVR	Runway Visual Range	

RY	runway
SA	sand
SCSL	stratocumulus standing lenticular cloud
SCT	scattered
SFC	surface
SH	shower(s)
SLP	sea-level pressure
SM	statute miles
SNINCR	snow increasing rapidly
SPECI	an unscheduled report taken when certain criteria have been met
SS	sandstorm
SW	snow shower, southwest
TS	thunderstorm
TWR	tower
UP	unknown precipitation
V	variable
VC	in the vicinity
VISNO	visibility at secondary location not available
VRB	variable
W	west
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSHFT	wind shift
Z	zulu, i.e., Coordinated Universal Time
SE	southeast
SG	snow grains
SKC	sky clear
SLPNO	sea-level pressure not available
SN	snow
SP	snow pellets
SQ	squalls
STN	station
TCU	towering cumulus
TSNO	thunderstorm information not available
UNKN	unknown
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
VA	volcanic ash
VIS	visibility
VR	visual range
VV	vertical visibility
WG/SO	Working Group for Surface Observations

WND	wind
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Here's the structure to all METARs:

Category	Description	Example
TYPE OF REPORT	METAR: hourly (scheduled) report; SPECI: METAR special (unscheduled) report.	
STATION IDENTIFIER	Four alphabetic characters; ICAO location identifier.	KABC
DATE/TIME	All dates and times in UTC using a 24-hour clock; two-digit date and four-digit time; always appended with Z to indicate UTC.	121755Z
REPORT MODIFIER	Fully automated report, no human intervention; removed when observer signed-on.	AUTO
WIND DIRECTION AND SPEED	Direction in tens of degrees from true north (first three digits); next two digits: speed whole knots; as needed Gusts (character) followed by maximum observed speed; always appended with KT to indicate knots; 00000KT for calm; if direction varies by 60° or more a Variable wind direction group is reported.	21016G24KT 180V240 Gusts 00000KT
VISIBILITY	Prevailing visibility in statute miles and fractions (space between whole miles and fractions); always appended with SM to indicate statute miles; values <1/4 reported as MI1/4.	1SM MI1/4
RUNWAY VISUAL RANGE	10-minute RVR value in hundreds of feet; R11/P6000FT reported if prevailing visibility is < one mile; RVR ≤ 6000 feet; always appended with FT to indicate feet; value prefixed with M or P to indicate value is lower or higher than the reportable RVR value.	R11/P6000FT M6000FT P6000FT
WEATHER PHENOMENA	RA: liquid precipitation that does not freeze; SN: frozen precipitation other than hail; U: precipitation of unknown type; intensity prefixed to precipitation: light (-), moderate (no sign), heavy (+); FG: fog; FZFG: freezing fog (temperature below 0°C); BR: mist; HZ: haze; SQ: squall; maximum of three groups reported;	-RA BR SN U (-) RA (+) SN FG FZFG BR HZ SQ

	augmented by observer: FC (funnel cloud/tornado/waterspout); TS (thunderstorm); GR (hail); GS (small hail; <1/4 inch); FZRA (intensity; freezing rain); VA (volcanic ash).	
SKY CONDITION	Cloud amount and height: CLR (no clouds detected below 12000 feet); FEW (few); S OVC025 (scattered); BKN (broken); OVC (overcast); followed by 3-digit height in hundreds of feet; or vertical visibility (VV) followed by height for indefinite ceiling.	BKN015
TEMPERATURE/DEW POINT	Each is reported in whole degrees Celsius 06/04 using two digits; values are separated by a solidus; sub-zero values are prefixed with an M (minus).	06/04
ALTIMETER	Altimeter always prefixed with an A indicating inches of mercury; reported using four digits: tens, units, tenths, and hundredths.	10090