



Our Wings Carry Your Dreams

Graphical Area Forecast

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Introduction

This brief is to instruct the student on the use of Graphical Area Forecasts (GAF). The Graphical Area Forecast replaces the previous Area Forecast (ARFOR) in terms of providing weather forecast observations between surface and 10,000 feet Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL). The forecast can be accessed from either the National Aeronautical Information Process System (NAIPS) or the Bureau of Meteorology. The GAF provides followings

- Weather
- Cloud
- Visibility
- Icing
- Turbulence.
- Freezing Level (FZLVL)

Graphical Area Forecast Format

The GAF is issued as a pictorial format with text. It is issued with consistent validity and issued times across the continent. Times of validity are;

- 2300Z – 0500Z
- 0500Z – 1100Z
- 1100Z – 1700Z
- 1700Z - 2300Z

Each issue is valid for 6 hours providing a 12-hour coverage period.

Diagram

The diagram is consisting of an image of the forecasted area featured at the top left with an area split into several segments, depending on the weather present, defined by a letter of the alphabet A, B, C, D, etc. Areas designated by letters can also be subdivided into letters and numbers A1, A2, B1, B2 etc.

The diagram is extracted from the Planning Chart Australia (PCA). All updated PCA charts have the forecasted area available for intended flights. Students are advised to firstly draw a simple route line from landing point to landing point to see which Graphical Area Forecasts are needed for the flight.

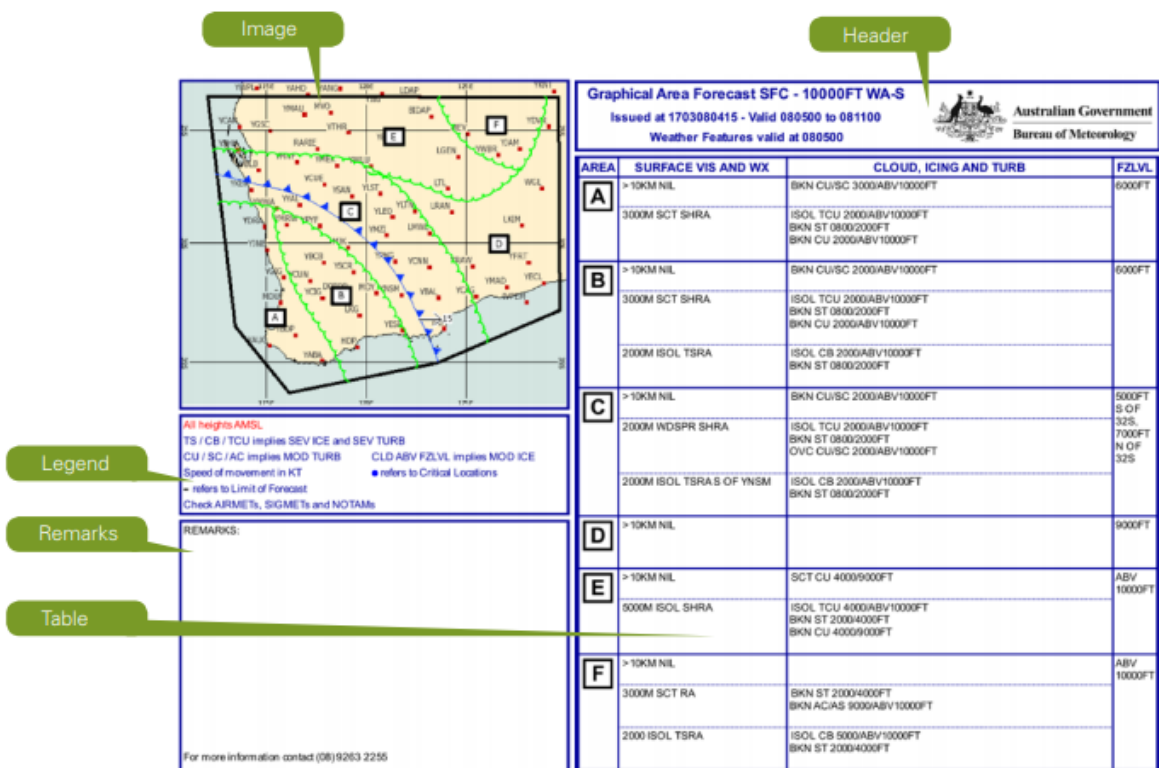


Main Body Text

The header contains the issue and validity times, the altitude and location of what area is being forecasted. Underneath the header is the main body text of the forecast split into the following columns;

- Area represented by a letter
- Surface Visibility and Weather Phenomena associated with area
- Cloud Icing and Turbulence
- Freezing Level FZLVL

The surface visibility and weather phenomena is structured from most to least limiting weather. So as an example thunderstorms or fog limiting the visibility will typically be at the bottom of the table whereas 10km visibility will be at the top.



Legend and Remarks

On the bottom left of the GAF is the Legends and Remarks section. This section informs the pilot how to read the pictorial diagram as well as any symbols included in the forecast. The remark section will contain additional notes, critical locations and or amendments of previous forecasts.

Reference Material

Bureau of Meteorology Knowledge centre

<http://www.bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre/>

Bureau of Meteorology

www.bom.gov.au

Graphical Area Forecast

Graphical Area Forecast Reference Card

AIP Reference: AIP GEN 3.5 - 3