Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

1908–2008
100 YEARS OF
SCIENCE AND SERVICE
BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Changes to the Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) Format

The Bureau of Meteorology is planning changes to its TAF format, to take effect on 5 November 2008. These changes are being made to comply with the format specified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Most of these changes are due to the worldwide introduction of a TAF with a 30-hour validity period to assist in flight planning for those aerodromes required by long-haul operators. In Australia, the 30-hour TAF will be provided for Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin and Perth. However, the new format will apply to all Australian TAFs.

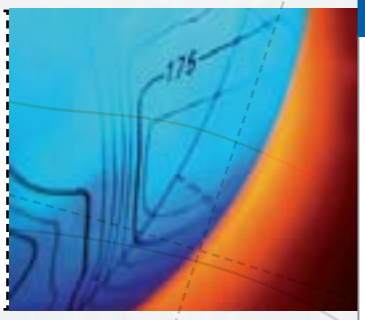
The changes are as follows:

Validity period groups will be given in the format DDHH/DDHH which gives the day of the month and the time in hours UTC for both the beginning and the end of the validity period.

TAF YABC 302255Z 0100/0206 01015KT 9000 RA SCT015 BKN100 TX17/0106Z TN08/0119Z INTER 0100/0107 23018KT 6000 SH BKN030 PROB30 0117/0201 0400 FG RMK T 11 15 17 13 Q 1017 1016 1016 1017	Validity period of TAF - from 00 UTC on the 1st until 06 UTC on the 2nd Validity period of INTER – from 00 UTC on the 1st until 07 UTC on the 1st 30% probability of fog between 17 UTC on the 1st and 01 UTC on the 2nd.

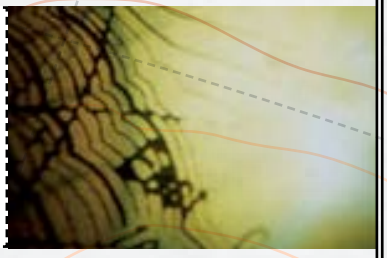
The change group **FM** (from) and **TL** (until) will be followed by a six-figure group in the format DDHHMM, giving the day of the month and a four figure time group.

TAF AMD YABC 302255Z 0100/0206 01015KT CAVOK FM011000 22015KT 8000 SHRA BKN100 RMK FM010000 MOD TURB BLW 5000FT TL010600 T 11 15 17 13 Q 1017 1016 1016 1017	Significant changes (from CAVOK to showers) expected to rapidly develop at 10 UTC on the 1st Moderate turbulence expected between 00 UTC on the 1st and 06 UTC on the 1st

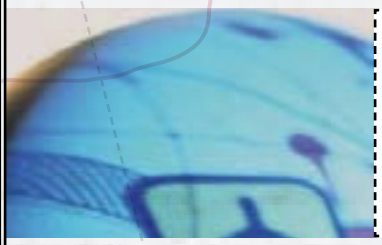


The change group **BECMG** (becoming) will be used to forecast gradual changes to the conditions previously given, i.e. where the new conditions are expected to gradually reach or pass through specified threshold values at a regular or irregular rate and at an unspecified time during the time period. The time period will be given in the format DDHH/DDHH which gives the day of the month and the time in hour UTC for both the beginning and the end of the change period.

TAF YABC 302255Z 0118/0224 01005KT 9999 NSW SCT050 TX27/0205Z TN08/0119Z BECMG 0122/0124 24015KT 8000 SHRA BKN050 RMK T 16 19 22 24 Q 1017 1016 1016 1017	Significant changes (from nil significant weather to showers) expected to gradually develop during the period 22 UTC on the 1st through to 24 UTC on the 1st



The abbreviation **COR** will be included when a correction to a previously issued TAF is required. COR will not be used to amend a TAF but will be used to correct an error in the TAF metadata, e.g. the validity period.

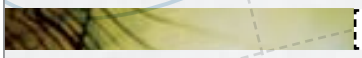


TAF COR YABC 302255Z 0118/0224 01005KT 9999 NSW SCT050 BECMG 0122/0124 24015KT 9999 SHRA BKN050 RMK T 16 19 22 24 Q 1017 1016 1016 1017	Correction to previously issued TAF

The abbreviation **CNL** will be used to cancel a current TAF. This may occur if observations from an aerodrome have unexpectedly become insufficient to allow the forecaster to maintain an adequate weather watch on the TAF. This may arise, for example, if an automatic weather station becomes unserviceable in a situation of rapidly changing weather.

TAF AMD YABC 010605Z 0100/0206 CNL	Cancels all TAFs for this location

NIL will be used at routine issue times to indicate that the routine TAF is not required or won't be issued due to a temporary loss of observations, and will continue to be used until the automatic weather station has been restored or when the forecaster otherwise decides an adequate weather watch can be maintained.

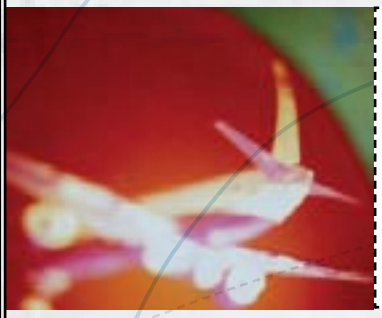


TAF YABC 302240Z NIL	There is no current TAF

At aerodromes where vertical visibility measurements are available, forecasts of vertical visibility will be given in the format **VVnnn** when the sky is obscured due to a phenomenon other than cloud, e.g. bushfire smoke. It will be given in units of hundreds of feet.

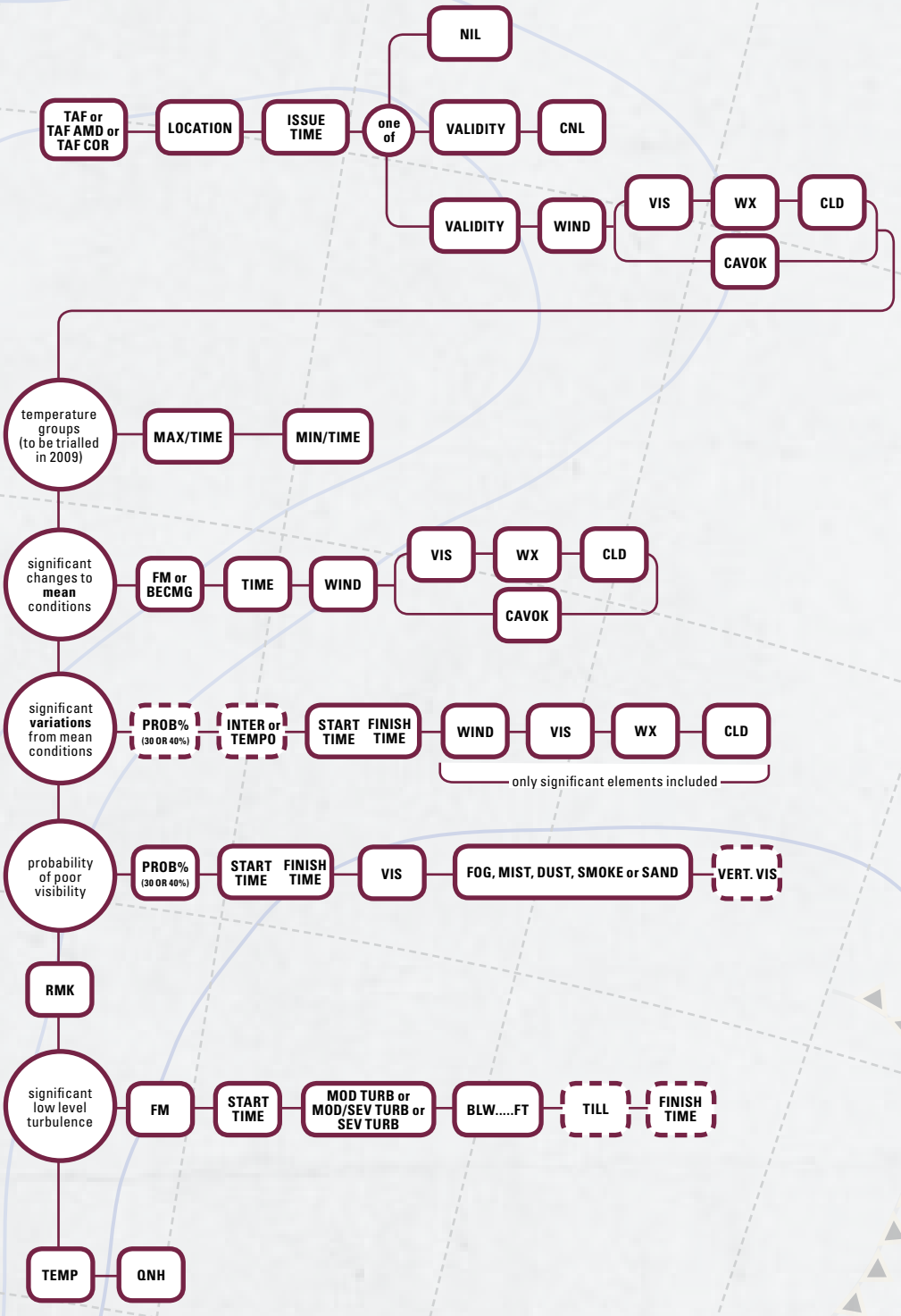
TAF YABC 302255Z 0118/0224 01005KT 1000 FU VV030 BECMG 0122/0124 24015KT 9999 SHRA BKN050 RMK T 16 19 22 24 Q 1017 1016 1016 1017	The sky is expected to be obscured, due smoke (FU), with a vertical visibility of 3,000 ft

Additionally, in early 2009 the inclusion of **maximum and minimum temperature** groups will be trialled in the 30-hour TAFs (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin and Perth). These groups will give the maximum and minimum temperatures expected during the validity period of the TAF, along with the day of the month and the time in hour UTC at which the temperatures are expected to occur, using the format TXtt/DDHHZ and TNtt/DDHHZ.



TAF YABC 302255Z 0100/0206 01015KT CAVOK TX17/0205Z TN08/0119Z FM011000 22015KT 8000 SHRA BKN100 RMK FM010000 MOD TURB BLW 5000FT TL010600 T 11 15 17 13 Q 1017 1016 1016 1017	Forecast maximum temperature of 17^{0}C at 05 UTC on the 2nd , and minimum temperature of 8^{0}C at 19 UTC on the 1st

The following schematic diagram provides a decode of the structure of an Australian TAF:



Please note: These changes will have some impact on flight planning, and accordingly pilots can expect an AIP supp and AIP changes on the topic.