



## CHANGES TO THE AERODROME FORECAST (TAF) FORMAT

The Bureau of Meteorology is planning changes to its TAF format, to take effect on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 world-wide 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, giving the day of the month and the time in hour UTC for both the beginning and the end of the validity period

*Note that in TTF, the INTER and TEMPO periods will remain HHMM/HHMM, i.e. hours and minutes.*

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

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

*Note that in TTF, the FM and TILL times will remain HHMM, i.e. hour and minutes.*

TAF AMD YABC 302255Z 0100/0206		
01015KT CAVOK		
FM011000 22015KT 8000 SHRA BKN050	←	Significant changes (from CAVOK to showers) expected to rapidly develop at 10 UTC on the 1 <sup>st</sup>
RMK		
FM010000 MOD TURB BLW 5000FT TILL010600	←	Moderate turbulence expected from 00 UTC on the 1 <sup>st</sup> until 06 UTC on the 1 <sup>st</sup>
T 11 15 17 13 Q 1017 1016 1016 1017		

The change group **BECMG** (becoming) will be used to forecast gradual changes to the conditions previously given in the TAF (compared with FM which will be used for more rapid

changes). It will be used when 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 given time period, which will be in the format DDHH/DDHH, giving day of the month and time in hour UTC for the beginning and end of the change period.

```
TAF YABC 302255Z 0118/0224
01005KT 9999 NSW SCT050
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 1<sup>st</sup> through to 24 UTC on the 1<sup>st</sup>

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 when deemed necessary by the forecaster. This may occur, for example, if an automatic weather station becomes unserviceable in a situation of rapidly changing weather, resulting in the forecaster losing the capability of maintaining an adequate weather watch over the aerodrome.

```
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 weather watch capability. It 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 may 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 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

