

DECODING OF SIGNIFICANT PRESENT AND FORECAST WEATHER

INTENSITY

"-" (light); no indicator (moderate); "+" [heavy, or a tornado/waterspout in the case of funnel cloud(s)] are used to indicate the present and forecast intensity of certain phenomena.

DESCRIPTORS

BC - patches	FZ - freezing (supercooled)	SH - shower(s)
BL - blowing	MI - shallow	TS - thunderstorm
DR - low drifting	PR - partial	VC - in the vicinity

WEATHER ABBREVIATIONS

DZ - drizzle	BR - mist	DS - duststorm
GR - hail	DU - widespread dust	FC - funnel cloud(s) (tornado or waterspout)
GS - small hail and/or snow pellets	FG - fog	PO - dust/sand whirls (dust devils)
IC - ice crystals (diamond dust)	FU - smoke	SQ - squall
PL - ice pellets	HZ - haze	SS - sandstorm
RA - rain	SA - sand	UP - undefined precipitation
SG - snow grains	VA - volcanic ash	
SN - snow		

EXAMPLES

+SHRA	- heavy shower of rain	TSSN	- thunderstorm with moderate snow
FZDZ	- moderate freezing drizzle	SNRA	- moderate snow and rain
+TSSNGR	- thunderstorm with heavy snow and hail	-SHSN	- light shower of snow

CAVOK - CLOUD AND VISIBILITY OK

Replaces visibility, present weather and cloud if:

- 1) Visibility is 10km or more and the lowest visibility is not reported
- 2) No cloud of operational significance
- 3) No weather of significance to aviation

RUNWAY STATE GROUP $RD_R D_R L/E_R C_R e_R e_R B_R B_R$ $D_R D_R$ RUNWAY DESIGNATOR

in case of parallel runways "L" for left, "R" for right is written after the rwy designator (no parallel rwys in use in Austria)

- 99 - old report, a new report is not available
- 88 - all runways

E_R TYPE OF DEPOSIT

- 0 - clear and dry
- 1 - damp
- 2 - wet or water patches
- 3 - rime or frost covered <1mm
- 4 - dry snow
- 5 - wet snow
- 6 - slush
- 7 - ice
- 8 - compacted or rolled snow
- 9 - frozen ruts or ridges
- / - No report (in case of runway cleaning)

C_R EXTEND OF RUNWAY CONTAMINATION

- 1 - Less than 10% of runway
- 2 - 11% - 25% of runway
- 5 - 26% - 50% of runway
- 9 - 51% - 100% of runway
- / - No report (in case of runway cleaning)

$e_R e_R$ HEIGHT OF DEPOSIT

- 00 - less than 1mm
- 01 - 1mm
- 02 - 2mm
- etc...
- 90 - 90mm
- 92 - 10cm
- 93 - 15cm
- 94 - 20cm
- 95 - 25cm
- 96 - 30cm
- 97 - 35cm
- 98 - 40cm or more
- 99 - Runway closed due to deposit
- // - Height of deposit not significant

$B_R B_R$ FRICTION COEFFICIENT BRAKING ACTION

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| >0,40 | 95 good |
| 0,39-0,36 | 94 medium/good |
| 0,35-0,30 | 93 medium |
| 0,29-0,26 | 92 medium/poor |
| <0,25 | 91 poor |
| | 99 unreliable |
| | // Braking action not reported, Runway closed |
- (28 ... means Friction coefficient 0,28)

SYMBOLS FOR SIGNIFICANT WEATHER

	THUNDERSTORMS
	TROPICAL CYCLONE
	SEVERE SQUALL LINE
	HAIL
	MODERATE TURBULENCE
	SEVERE TURBULENCE
	MOUNTAIN WAVES
	LIGHT AIRCRAFT ICING
	MODERATE AIRCRAFT ICING
	SEVERE AIRCRAFT ICING
	FREEZING PRECIPITATION
	WIDESPREAD FOG
	DRIZZLE
	RAIN
	SNOW
	SHOWER
	SEVERE SAND OR DUST HAZE
	WIDESPREAD SANDSTORM OR DUSTSTORM
	WIDESPREAD HAZE
	WIDESPREAD MIST
	WIDESPREAD SMOKE
	WIDESPREAD BLOWING SNOW
	VOLCANIC ERUPTION
	RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IN THE ATMOSPHERE
	MOUNTAIN OBSCURATION

CRITERIA FOR SIGMET INFORMATION

- Thunderstorm (OBSC, EMBD, SQL, FRQ) - TS
- Thunderstorm (OBSC, EMBD, SQL, FRQ) with hail - TSGR
- Tropical cyclone - TC (+ cyclone name)
- Severe turbulence - SEV TURB
- Severe icing and severe icing due to freezing rain - SEV ICE (FZRA)
- Severe mountain waves - SEV MTW
- Heavy sandstorm/duststorm - HVY SS/DS
- Volcanic ash - VA (+ volcano name)
- Radioactive Cloud - RDOACT CLD

The following dimensional units and symbols are used throughout this report:

ICAO TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL UNITS

DIMENSIONS	UNITS
Distances	NAUTICAL MILES and TENTHS
Altitudes heights	FEET / HECTOFEET / FLIGHT LEVEL
Horizontal speed	KNOTS
Vertical speed	METRES PER SECOND
Wind speed	KNOTS
Wind direction for landing and taking-off	DEGREES MAGNETIC*
Wind direction for all other purposes	DEGREES TRUE*
Cloud altitude and height	FEET / HECTOFEET / FLIGHT LEVEL
Visibility	KILOMETRES or METRES
Altimeter setting	HECTOPASCAL
Temperature	CENTIGRADE
Time	HOURS and MINUTES the day of 24 hours beginning at midnight U.T.C.

* In Austria no difference between degrees magnetic and true

SYMBOLS USED IN SIGNIFICANT WEATHER CHARTS (SWH, SWM)

	TROPOPAUSE HIGH		POSITION, SPEED AND LEVEL OF MAX. WIND
	TROPOPAUSE LOW		CONVERGENCE LINE
	AREA OF SIGNIFICANT WEATHER		FREEZING LEVEL
	TROPOPAUSE LEVEL		CAT AREAS
			INNERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
			AXES OF JETSTREAM

Wind arrows indicate the maximum wind in jet and the flight level at which it occurs. If the maximum wind speed is 120 kt or more, the flight levels between which winds are greater than 80 kt is placed below the maximum wind level. In the example, winds are greater than 80 kt between FL 240 and FL 350. The heavy line delineating the jet axis begins/ends at the points where a windspeed of 80 kt is forecast. The double bar denotes changes of wind speed of 20 kt.

ABBREVIATIONS USED TO DESCRIBE CLOUDS

TYPE

HIGH/MEDIUM

AC = Altocumulus
AS = Altostratus
CC = Cirrocumulus
CI = Cirrus
CS = Cirrostratus

LOW

CU = Cumulus
SC = Stratocumulus
ST = Stratus

VERTICAL EXTENDED

CB = Cumulonimbus
NS = Nimbostratus
TCU = Towering Cumulus

AMOUNT

Clouds except CB
and TCU

SKC = sky clear (0/8)
FEW = few (1/8 to 2/8)
SCT = scattered (3/8 to 4/8)
BKN = broken (5/8 to 7/8)
OVC = overcast (8/8)

CB and TCU

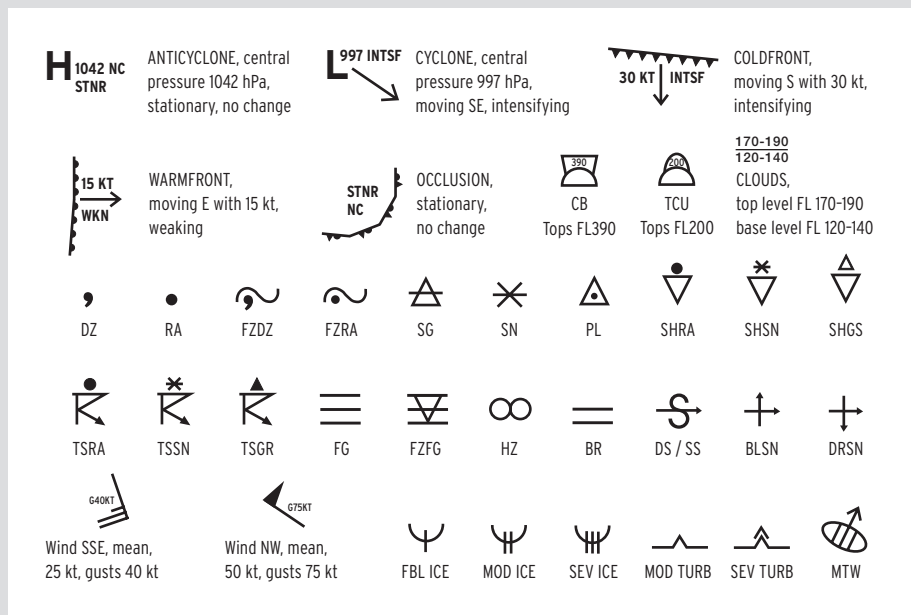
ISOL = individual CBs (isolated)
OCNL = well-separated CBs (occasional)
FRQ = CBs with little or no separation (frequent)
EMBD = CBs embedded in layers of other clouds
or concealed by haze (embedded)

HEIGHTS

Heights are indicated on SWH and SWM charts in flight levels (FL),
top over base. When XXX is used, tops or bases are outside the layer
of the atmosphere to which the chart applies. In SWL charts:

- heights are indicated as altitudes above mean sea level
- the abbreviation SFC is used to indicate ground level

DEPICTING OF SYSTEMS ON SPECIFIC CHARTS (SWL)



ARROWS, FEATHERS AND PENNANTS

ARROWS INDICATE DIRECTION.

NUMBER OF PENNANTS AND/OR FEATHERS CORRESPOND TO SPEED.

EXAMPLE: 280°/115 kt (equivalent to 57.5 m/s)

Pennants correspond to 50 kt or 25 m/s

Feathers correspond to 10 kt or 5 m/s

Half feathers correspond to 5 kt or 2.5 m/s

ABBREVIATIONS

AGL	ABOVE GROUND LEVEL
AMSL	ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL
BECMG	BECOMING
BTN	BETWEEN
CAT	CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE
CLD	CLOUD
CONS	CONTINUOUS
CUF	CUMULIFORM
DUC	DENSE UPPER CLOUD
EMBD	EMBEDDED
ENRT	EN ROUTE
FBL	LIGHT
FCST	FORECAST
FM	FROM
FL	FLIGHT LEVEL
FRQ	FREQUENT
GND	GROUND
HVY	HEAVY
INC	IN CLOUDS
INTSF	INTENSIFYING
INTST	INTENSITY
ISOL	ISOLATED
JTST	JET STREAM
LCA	LOCALLY
LYR	LAYER OR LAYERED
MOD	MODERATE
MON	ABOVE MOUNTAINS
MOV	MOVING
NC	NO CHANGE
NCD	NO CLOUD DETECTED
NOSIG	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE
NSC	NIL SIGNIFICANT CLOUDS
NSW	NIL SIGNIFICANT WEATHER
OBS	OBSERVED
OBSC	OBSCURED
OCNL	OCCASIONALLY
OTLK	OUTLOOK
PROB	PROBABILITY
SEV	SEVERE
SFC	SURFACE
SQL	SQUALL LINE
STF	STRATIFORM
SWH	SIGNIFICANT WEATHER HIGH LEVEL
SWL	SIGNIFICANT WEATHER LOW LEVEL
SWM	SIGNIFICANT WEATHER MEDIUM LEVEL
TEMPO	TEMPORARY
TL	TILL
VAL	IN VALLEYS
WDSPR	WIDESPREAD
WKN	WEAKENING
WS	WINDSHEAR