



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



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**100 YEARS OF
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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

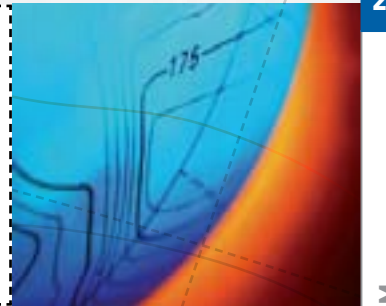
Validity period of TAF - from 00 UTC on the 1st until 06 UTC on the 2nd
Validity period of INTER - from 00 UTC on the 1st until 07 UTC on the 1st
30% probability of fog between 17 UTC on the 1st and 01 UTC on the 2nd.



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

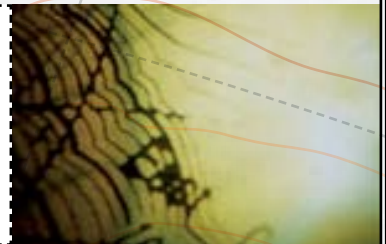
Significant changes (from CAVOK to showers) expected to rapidly develop at 10 UTC on the 1st
Moderate turbulence expected between 00 UTC on the 1st and 06 UTC on the 1st



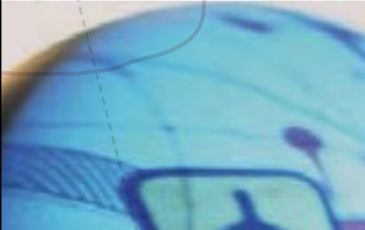
The change group **BECMG** (becoming) will be used to forecast gradual changes to the conditions previously given, i.e. where the new conditions are expected to gradually reach or pass through specified threshold values at a regular or irregular rate and at an unspecified time during the time period. 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

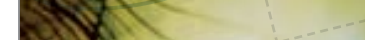
The abbreviation **CNL** will be used to cancel a current TAF. This may occur if observations from an aerodrome have unexpectedly become insufficient to allow the forecaster to maintain an adequate weather watch on the TAF. This may arise, for example, if an automatic weather station becomes unserviceable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

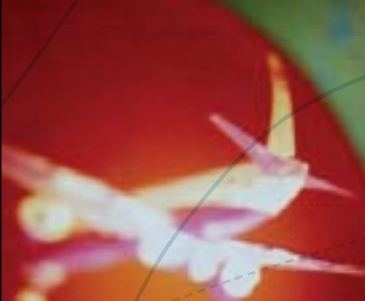
At aerodromes where vertical visibility measurements are available, forecasts of vertical visibility will be given in the format **VVnnn** when the sky is obscured due to a phenomenon other than cloud, e.g. bushfire smoke. It will be given in units of hundreds of feet.



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 to smoke (FU), with a vertical visibility of 3,000 ft

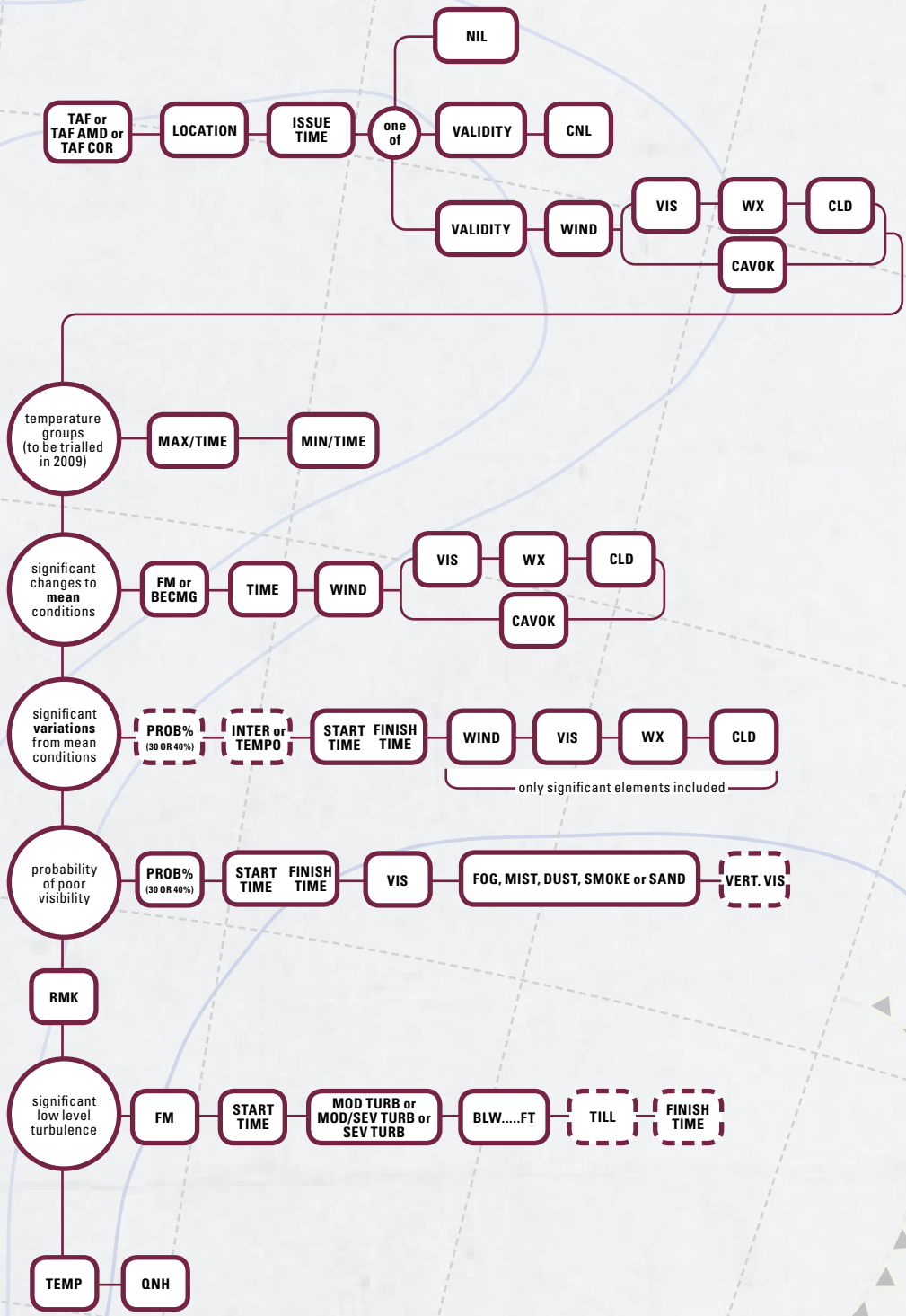
Additionally, in early 2009 the inclusion of **maximum and minimum temperature** groups will be trialled in the 30-hour TAFs (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin and Perth). These groups will give the maximum and minimum temperatures expected during the validity period of the TAF, along with 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°C at 05 UTC on the 2nd , and minimum temperature of 8°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.

