

This glossary provides the definitions of the abbreviations used on the METAR and TAF weather reports. Below is an example, which is also good practice for reading and understanding the weather reports. This example is from the FAA supplement materials.

Appendix 2

METAR KINK 121845Z 11012G18KT 15SM SKC 25/17 A3000
METAR KBOI 121854Z 13004KT 30SM SCT150 17/6 A3015
METAR KLAX 121852Z 25004KT 6SM BR SCT007 SCT250 16/15 A2991
SPECI KMDW 121856Z 32005KT 1 1/2SM RA OVC007 17/16 A2980 RMK RAB35
SPECI KJFK 121853Z 18004KT 1/2SM FG R04/2200 OVC005 20/18 A3006

FIGURE 12.—Aviation Routine Weather Reports (METAR).

Weather Descriptions:

BC	Patches
BL	Blowing
DR	Low Drifting
FZ	Freezing or Super- Cooled
MI	Shallow
PR	Partial
SH	Showers
TS	Thunderstorm

Intensity Values:

-(Minus)	Light
No Sign	Moderate
+(Plus)	Heavy

Cloud Types:

CB	Cumulonimbus
CIR	Cirrus
TCU	Towering Cumulonimbus

Visibility Obstructions:

BR	Mist
DS	Dust Storm
DU	Widespread Dust
DZ	Drizzle
FC	Funnel Cloud
+FC	Tornado or Waterspout
FG	Fog
FU	Smoke
GR	Hail
GS	Small Hail or Snow Pellets
HZ	Haze
IC	Ice Crystals
PE	Ice Pellets
PO	Dust or Sand Devils
PY	Spray
RA	Rain
SA	Sand
SG	Snow Grains
SN	Snow
SQ	Squall
SS	Sand Storm
UP	Precipitation Type Unknown
VA	Volcanic Ash

Cloud Cover:

(Octas are used as the measurement for cloud coverage.)

BKN	Broken (5-7 Octas)
CLR	Clear
FEW	Few (0-2 Octas)
OVC	Overcast (+7 Octas)
SCT	Scattered (3-4 Octas)
SKC	Sky Clear
W	Vertical Visibility (Indefinite Ceiling)

Other Weather Abbreviations:

AO1	Automated observation without precipitation discriminator
AO2	Automated observation with precipitation discriminator
AMD	Amended Forecast
B	Used to indicate when the precipitation started (RAB18: Rain began at 18 minutes past the hour.
BECMG	Becoming
BINOVC	Breaks in Overcast
COR	Correction to the observation
E	Used to indicate when the precipitation ended SNE30: Snow ended at 30 minutes Past the hour.
FLDURC	(Flight Level) during the climb, as indicated in a pilot report
FM	(Flight Level) during the decent, as indicated in a pilot report
LDG	Landing
NO	Used with other codes, meaning not available
NSW	No Significant Weather
PK WND	Peak Wind
PROB	Probability (Will be shown as a percentage
PRESFR	Pressure Falling Rapidly
R	Runway used in RVR measurement
RY	Runway
RWY	Runway
RVR	Runway Visual Range
SLP	Sea Level Pressure (Measured in millibars and tenths)
T	Sometimes used as a substitute for TO
TEMPO	Temporary (Used to indicate a time frame for temporary weather)
TKOF	Takeoff
TO	Gives temperature to the nearest tenth of a degree, followed by two groups of four digits. If the digit is zero its above freezing, if it's one it is below freezing. The other three digits indicate temperature value in Celsius.



V	Varies
VC	Vicinity
VRB	Variable wind direction when wind speed is less than six knots
WS	Wind Shear