AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 25/21

CHANGES TO CANADIAN SIGMET, AIRMET AND TAF BULLETINS

In order to comply with standards and recommended practices from International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 3 and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) No 386, the Meteorological Services of Canada (MSC) will make modifications to significant meteorological information (SIGMET), AIRMET, and aerodrome forecast (TAF) bulletins, as well as change some abbreviations used in these products. The changes will be effective on 02 December 2021.

The following is a brief summary of changes that will be made to Canadian SIGMET, AIRMET and TAF bulletins.

Abbreviation Changes

Several of the abbreviations currently in use for these products and others will be slightly modified or added to ensure compliance with ICAO used abbreviations. The table below provides only a few examples of the changing abbreviations and does not constitute an exhaustive list.

Cancel/led (currently CNCL/CNCLD) to **CNL**	Icing (currently ICG) to **ICE**
Intensifying (currently INTSFYG) to **INTSF**	Low level wind shear (currently LLWS) to **L LVL WS**
Moderate (currently MDT) to **MOD**	Moving (currently MOVG) to **MOV**
Stationary (currently QS) to **STNR**	Vertical visibility (currently not in MANAB) to **VV**
Within (currently WTN) to **WI**	Width or wide (currently WID/WD) to **WID**

SIGMET/AIRMET

1. **Lines (corridor):** SIGMET and AIRMET using a line (also known as a corridor) will now describe the entire width of the line instead of the distance on both sides of the line.

   Example 1

Current:	CZWG WINNIPEG FIR MDT ICG OBS WTN 75 NM OF LINE N5539 W09933 N5314 W09703 FL040/080 QS INTSFYG=
New:	CZWG WINNIPEG FIR MOD ICE OBS **WI 150NM WID LINE BTN N5539 W09933 N5314 W09703** FL040/080 STNR INTSF=

2. **Use of polygons:** Polygons and corridors will now be allowed for use in Tropical Cyclone SIGMET (WC).

   Example 2

Current:	CZQX GANDER DOMESTIC FIR TC ALBERTO OBS N4714 W05424 CB TOP FL200 WTN 60NM OF CENTRE MOV ENE 20KT WKNG FCST 2310Z TC CENTRE N4725 W05119=
New:	CZQX GANDER DOMESTIC FIR TC ALBERTO PSN N4714 W05424 **CB OBS WI N4818 W05507 – N4622 W05523 – N4631 W05305 – N4824 W05305 – N4818 W05507** TOP FL200 MOV ENE 20KT WKN=

3. **Movement:** The elements “forecast time” and “forecast position” will no longer be used in conjunction with the element “movement or expected movement” in Tropical Cyclone SIGMET (WC).

Example 3

Current:	CZQX GANDER DOMESTIC FIR TC ALBERTO OBS N4714 W05424 CB TOP FL200 WTN 60NM OF CENTRE MOV E 20KT WKNG FCST 2310Z TC CENTRE N4725 W05119=
New:	CZQX GANDER DOMESTIC FIR TC ALBERTO PSN N4714 W05424 CB OBS WI 60NM OF TC CENTRE TOP FL200 WKN **FCST AT 2310Z TC CENTRE PSN N4725 W05119** CB WI 50NM OF TC CENTRE=

4. **CB radius:** The final CB radius around the forecast TC centre in Tropical Cyclone SIGMET (WC) will now be specified, regardless of whether it is different from the initial CB radius or not.

Example 4

Current:	CZQX GANDER DOMESTIC FIR TC ALBERTO OBS N4714 W05424 CB TOP FL200 WTN 60NM OF CENTRE MOV E 20KT WKNG FCST 2310Z TC CENTRE N4725 W05119=
New:	CZQX GANDER DOMESTIC FIR TC ALBERTO PSN N4714 W05424 **CB OBS WI 60NM OF TC CENTRE** TOP FL200 WKN FCST AT 2310Z TC CENTRE PSN N4725 W05119 **CB WI 50NM OF TC CENTRE=**

5. Several other minor changes will be made to the meteorological part of the Tropical Cyclone (WC) and Volcanic Ash (WV) SIGMET such as the addition of the terms AT, PSN and MT and editorial changes to all SIGMET and AIRMET such as the removal of the space between certain terms or the addition of a space for lower visibilities with a fraction in the AIRMET.

Example 5

Current:	CZQM MONCTON FIR TC OSCAR N4325 W06627 CB OBS WTN N4534 W06700 - N4644 W06500 - N4354 W05917 - N4315 W06245 - N4534 W06700 WKNG FCST 0320Z TC CENTRE N4646 W06258 WTN N4643 W06424 - N4806 W06147 - N4447 W05637 - N4410 W05854 - N4643 W06424=
New:	CZQM MONCTON FIR TC OSCAR **PSN** N4325 W06627 CB OBS WI N4534 W06700 - N4644 W06500 - N4354 W05917 - N4315 W06245 - N4534 W06700 TOP FL420 WKN FCST **AT** 0320Z TC CENTRE **PSN** N4646 W06258 CB WI N4643 W06424 - N4806 W06147 - N4447 W05637 - N4410 W05854 - N4643 W06424=

TAF

1. **Cancelled and NIL TAF:** Cancellation and NIL TAF will show either CNL or NIL only in the body of the TAF and the reason will be included in the remarks section.

Example 6

Current:	TAF AMD CYTL 201630Z 2014/2102 FCST CNCLD DUE CLD HGT SENSOR INOP RMK FCST BASED ON AUTO OBS. NXT FCST BY 210000Z=
New:	TAF AMD CYTL 152330Z 1521/1608 **CNL** RMK **CLD SENSOR INOP.** NXT FCST BY 160200Z=

Example 7

Current:	TAF CYTL 160138 1602/1614 FCST NOT AVBL DUE NO OBS
New:	TAF CYTL 160138Z **NIL** RMK **NO OBS.** NXT FCST BY 160800Z=

2. **Amended and delayed TAF:** Amended and delayed TAF will now be sequenced using AAx for amended TAF and RRx for delayed TAF.

Example 8

Current:	AAA always used for amended TAF and no indicator used for delayed TAF
New:	FTCN33 CWAO 061800 **AAC** and FTCN33 CWAO 061800 **RRB**

3. **Visibility:** A space will be added to the visibilities when given with a whole number and a fraction.

4. **Remarks:** The remark section will integrate abbreviations that are compliant with ICAO.

5. **Bulletin numbers:** To mitigate the potential issues of increased use of numbers and letters brought by some of the changes above, new bulletin numbers will be created to further divide the TAFs with the addition of a 2x series for each flight information region (FIR), with the exception of Moncton FIR. Additionally, TAFs issued for Department of National Defence (DND) aerodromes will have a unique bulletin.

Bulletin used for TAFs	Flight Information Region
FTCN21 and FTCN31	Vancouver FIR
FTCN22 and FTCN32	Southern part of the Edmonton FIR
FTCN23 and FTCN33	Northern part of the Edmonton FIR
FTCN24 and FTCN34	Winnipeg FIR
FTCN25 and FTCN35	Toronto FIR
FTCN26 and FTCN36	Montreal FIR
FTCN37	Moncton FIR
FTCN28 and FTCN38	Gander domestic FIR
FTCN39	Department of National Defence

Manuals of Standards

The *Manual of Standards and Procedures for Aviation Weather Forecasts* (MANAIR) and the *Manual of Word Abbreviations* (MANAB) will be updated to reflect all the changes. An advanced copy of both manuals will be available in early fall at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/weather-manuals-documentation.html>.

Further Information

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