DRONE LAUNCH ACADEMY · PART 107 WEATHER

METAR & TAF Code Cheat Sheet

DRONE LAUNCH academy

READ IT LEFT TO RIGHT

One group at a time. All times are Zulu (UTC).

METAR	KLAX	121852Z	25004KT	6SM	BR	SCT007	SCT250	16/15	A2991
REPORT TYPE	STATION	DAY / TIME (ZULU)	WIND	VISIBILITY	WEATHER (MIST)	SKY LAYER 1	SKY LAYER 2	TEMP / DEWPOINT	ALTIMETER

1 Report Types & Modifiers

METAR	Routine (scheduled) weather observation
SPECI	Special (unscheduled) observation, issued when weather changes significantly
TAF	Terminal Aerodrome Forecast for an airport (scheduled TAFs cover 24 hours)
AUTO	Fully automated report, no human oversight
COR	Corrected report (TAF COR = corrected forecast; TAF AMD = amended)

2 Date/Time, Wind & Visibility

121852Z	12th day of the month, 1852 Zulu (UTC)
25004KT	Wind from 250° true at 4 knots
KT	Knots (U.S. wind speed unit)
G	Gusts: 27020G35KT = 270° at 20, gusting 35 kt
VRB	Variable direction, speed 6 kt or less (VRB03KT)
180V240	Direction varying 180°–240° (speed over 6 kt)
00000KT	Calm wind
SM	Statute miles: 6SM, 1 1/2SM, 1/2SM
P6SM	Plus 6: visibility greater than 6 SM (TAF)

3 Temperature, Dewpoint & Altimeter

16/15	Temp 16 °C / dewpoint 15 °C (close spread = fog or low clouds possible)
M	Minus: 04/M02 = 4 °C, dewpoint −2 °C
A2991	Altimeter setting 29.91 inches of mercury

4 Weather: Intensity / Proximity

-	Light (-RA = light rain)
(no sign)	Moderate (BR, RA)
+	Heavy (+SHRA = heavy rain showers)
VC	In the vicinity: 5–10 SM away (VCTS, VCSH, VCFG)

5 Weather: Descriptors

MI	Shallow (used only with FG: MIFG)
PR	Partial (used only with FG: PRFG)
BC	Patches (used only with FG: BCFG)
DR	Low drifting (DRSN)
BL	Blowing (BLSN, BLDU, BLSA, BLPY)
SH	Shower(s) (SHRA)
TS	Thunderstorm (TSRA)
FZ	Freezing (FZRA, FZFG)

6 Weather: Precipitation

DZ	Drizzle
RA	Rain
SN	Snow
SG	Snow grains
IC	Ice crystals (diamond dust)
PL	Ice pellets
GR	Hail
GS	Small hail / snow pellets
UP	Unknown precipitation (automated stations)

7 Weather: Obscurations

BR	Mist (visibility 5/8 SM or more)
FG	Fog (visibility less than 5/8 SM)
FU	Smoke
VA	Volcanic ash
DU	Widespread dust
SA	Sand
HZ	Haze
PY	Spray (only as BLPY)

8 Weather: Other

PO	Well-developed dust/sand whirls
SQ	Squalls
FC	Funnel cloud (+FC = tornado or waterspout)
SS	Sandstorm
DS	Dust storm

Build order: intensity, then descriptor, then phenomenon. **-FZRA** = light freezing rain; **+TSRA** = thunderstorm with heavy rain.

9 Common Remarks

RMK	Remarks section begins
AO1 / AO2	Automated station without / with a precipitation discriminator
RAB35	Rain began at :35 past the hour
RAE30	Rain ended at :30 (RAB05E30 = began :05, ended :30)
SLP132	Sea level pressure 1013.2 mb (SLP982 = 998.2 mb)

10 Sky Cover (heights in hundreds of feet AGL)

SKC / CLR	Clear. SKC = manned station, no layers; CLR = automated, none detected at or below 12,000 ft
FEW	Few: 1/8–2/8 of the sky
SCT	Scattered: 3/8–4/8
BKN	Broken: 5/8–7/8
OVC	Overcast: 8/8
VV	Vertical visibility into an obscured sky (VV005 = 500 ft)
CB	Cumulonimbus (OVC010CB)
TCU	Towering cumulus (SCT015TCU)
SCT007	Scattered at 700 ft, not 7,000 (add two zeros)

Ceiling = the lowest BKN or OVC layer, or VV. FEW and SCT are never a ceiling (SCT007 SCT250 = no ceiling).

11 TAF Change Groups

1218/1324	Valid from the 12th at 1800Z to the 13th at 2400Z
FM122200	From the 12th at 2200Z: rapid change to new prevailing conditions
TEMPO	Temporary: each change under 1 hr, in total under half the period (TEMPO 1212/1214)
BECMG	Becoming: gradual change expected during the period (BECMG 1306/1308)
PROB30/40	30% / 40% probability during the period (PROB40 1220/1222)
NSW	No significant weather (TAF)

Featured example: FAA testing supplement, Figure 12. **Sources:** FAA Aviation Weather Handbook, FAA-H-8083-28 (2022), Ch. 24 (METAR/SPECI, Tables 24-3 & 24-4) and Ch. 27 (TAF); FAA/NWS Key to Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) and Aviation Routine Weather Report (METAR); aviationweather.gov METAR/TAF help. Examples from FAA-CT-8080-2H Figures 12 & 15. For study use only; always use current official weather. © Drone Launch Academy