

Code Element	Example	Decode	Notes
1. Identification METAR or SPECI Locallon Indicator Date/time	METAR FAJS 291020Z	METAR Johannesburg International ten twenty Zulu on the 29th	METAR - aviation routine report, SPECI - selected special Station four-letter Indicator
2. Wind Wind direction/speed Extreme direction variance	31015G27KT 280V350	three one zero degrees, fifteen knots, max twenty seven knots varying between two eight zero and three five zero degrees	Max only given if ≥ 10 KT than mean. VRB = variable. 0000KT = calm Variation given in clockwise direction, but only when mean speed is greater than 3 KT.
3. Visibility Minimum visibility Maximum visibility	1400SW 6000N	one thousand four hundred metres to south west six thousand metres to the north	0000 = less than 50 metres. 9999 = ten kilometres or more. Direction of minimum visibility given by eight point compass. Given when minimum visibility ≤ 1500 m and maximum ≥ 5000 m.
4. RVR	R21R/1100	RVR, runway two one right, one thousand one hundred metres	RVR tendency (U = increasing, D = decreasing, N = no change) may be added after figure, eg. R21R/1100D. P1500 = more than 1500 m, M0050 = less than 50 m. Significant variations: eg. R21R/0950V1100 = varying between the two values.
5. Present weather	+SHRA	Heavy rain showers	+ = Heavy (well developed in the case of +FC and +PO); - = Light; no qualifier = Moderate. BC = Patches BL = Blowing BR = Mist DR = Drifting DS = Duststorm DU = Dust DZ = Drizzle FC = Funnel cloud FG = Fog FU = Smoke FZ = Freezing GR = Hail (>5mm) SR = Small hail or snow pellets HZ = Haze IC = Ice crystals MI = Shallow PL = Ice pellets PO = Dust devils PR = Banks RA = Rain SA = Sand SH = Showers SG = Snow grains SN = Snow SQ = Squalls SS = Sandstorm TS = Thunderstorm VA = Volcanic Ash VC = In vicinity Up to three groups may be present, constructed by selecting and combining from the above. Group omitted if no weather to report.
6. Cloud	FEW005 BKN025 SCT025CB	few at five hundred feet, broken at two thousand five hundred feet, scattered cumulonimbus at two thousand five hundred feet.	SKC = Sky clear (0 oktas), FEW = few (1-2 oktas), SCT = scattered (3-4 oktas), BKN = broken (5-7 oktas), OVC = overcast. There are only two cloud types reported: TCU = towering cumulus and CB = cumulonimbus. W/// = state of sky obscured (cloud base not discernible); Figures in lieu of /// give vertical visibility in hundreds of feet. Up to three, but occasionally more, cloud groups may be given.
7. CAVOK (Will replace visibility and cloud groups)	CAVOK	Cav-oh-kay	Visibility greater or equal to 10 km, no cumulonimbus, no cloud below 5000 ft or highest MSA (greater) and no weather significant to aviation.
8. Temp and dew point	10/03	temperature ten degrees Celsius, dew point three degrees Celsius	If dew point is missing, example will be reported as 10///. M03 = minus degrees Celsius.
9. QNH	Q0995	nine nine five hectopascals	Q indicates hectopascals. In the USA the letter A is used (QNH is in inches and hundredths).
10. Recent weather	RETS	Recent thunderstorm	RE = recent, weather codes as above. Up to three groups may be present.
11. Trend	BECMG FM1100 23035G50KT TEMPO FM0630 TL 0830 3000 SHRA	becoming from 1100Z 230 degrees 35 KT, max 50 KT temporarily from 0630 until 0830, 3000 metres visibility. Moderate rain showers.	BECMG = Becoming TEMPO = Temporarily NOSIG = No sig change NSW = No sig weather AT = At FM = From TL = Until NSC = No sig cloud Any of the wind forecast, visibility, weather or cloud groups may be used, and CAVOK. Multiple groups may be present.

Code Element	Example	Decode	Notes
1. Report type	TAF	TAF	Name for an aerodrome forecast
2. Location	FAJS	Johannesburg International	Station 4-letter ICAO indicator
3. Date/Time of origin	130500Z	For the 13th at oh, five, hundred, Zulu	Can be omitted
4. Validity time	130716	Valid from oh, seven hundred, to, sixteen hundred, on the 13th	Zulu
5. Wind	31015G25KT	Three one zero degrees fifteen, gusting twenty five knots	G is used if speed is 10 kt or more higher than average for previous 10 min; VRB = Variable; 0000KT = Calm
6. Significant weather	-SHRA	Light rain showers	See present weather table on METAR for details; NSW = No significant weather
7. Min visibility or CAVOK	8000	Eight kilometres	9999 = 10 km or more; 0000 = less than 50 metres
8. Cloud	FEW005 SCT010 SCT018CB BKN025 CAVOK	Few at 500 feet, scattered at one thousand feet, scattered cumulonimbus at one thousand eight hundred feet, broken at two thousand five hundred feet Same as for METAR. SKC or NSC could also be used.	SKC = Sky clear (0 oktas), FEW = few (1-2 oktas), SCT = scattered (3-4 oktas), BKN = broken (5-7 oktas), OVC = overcast. (8 oktas) W/// = state of sky obscured (cloud base not discernible); Figures after /// will give vertical visibility in hundreds of feet. NSC = no significant cloud (none below 5000 feet and no CB) CB will be the only cloud type specified.
9. Icing	620805	Light icing in cloud starting at 8000 feet, with the icing level 5000 feet thick.	6 = Icing indicator. Second digit is level of icing: 1 = Light, 2 = Light in cloud, 3 = Light in precipitation 4 = Moderate 5 = Mod in cloud, 6 = Mod in precipitation 7 = Severe, 8 = Severe in cloud, 9 = severe in precipitation Next three digits indicate base of icing level in same format as cloud base, add 00 to get height AGL, and last digit indicates thickness of icing layer in thousands of feet
10. Turbulence	512403	Light turbulence with a base height of 24000 feet AGL extending upwards for 3000 feet.	5 = Turbulence indicator. Second digit is level of turbulence: 1 = Light, 2 = Moderate in clear air, occasional, 3 = Mod in clear air, frequent, 4 = Mod in cloud, occasional, 5 = Mod in cloud, frequent 6 = Severe, clear air, occasional, 7 = Severe, clear air, frequent, 8 = Severe, cloud, occasional, 9 = Severe, cloud, frequent. Next four, same as for icing - base, and thickness.
11. Significant changes Probability Time Change Indicator Met. groups	PROB30 1416 BECMG 1416 FM 1400 TSRA BKN010CB	30% probability from fourteen hundred to sixteen hundred or becoming from fourteen hundred to sixteen hundred or from fourteen hundred to sixteen hundred Thunderstorm with rain, broken cumulonimbus at one thousand feet	Normally only 30% or 40% probability will be used. Indicates beginning and end time of forecast period in UTC or Zulu (Z) Also TEMPO = temporarily may be used. Met. group follows indicating a change in some or all of the elements forecast in the first part of the TAF
12. Temperature Maximum Minimum	TX27/12Z/ TN16/06Z	Maximum temperature of 27°C expected at 1200Z Minimum temperature of 16°C expected at 0600Z	The letter X is used to denote the maximum temperature The letter N is used to denote minimum temperature