

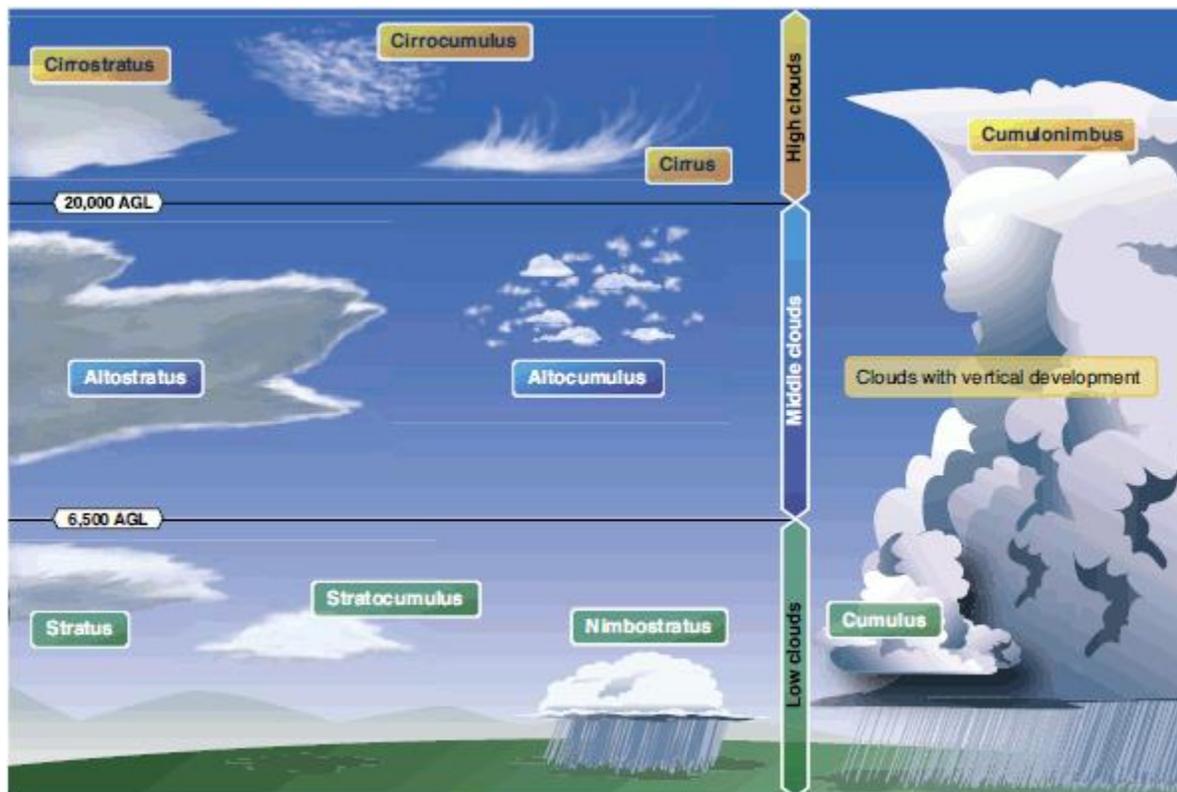
## Weather Abbreviation Guide

Qualifier		Weather Phenomena		
Intensity or Proximity 1	Descriptor 2	Precipitation 3	Obscuration 4	Other 5
- Light	<b>MI</b> Shallow	<b>DZ</b> Drizzle	<b>BR</b> Mist	<b>PO</b> Dust/sand whirls
Moderate (no qualifier)	<b>BC</b> Patches	<b>RA</b> Rain	<b>FG</b> Fog	<b>SQ</b> Squalls
+ Heavy	<b>DR</b> Low drifting	<b>SN</b> Snow	<b>FU</b> Smoke	<b>FC</b> Funnel cloud
<b>VC</b> in the vicinity	<b>BL</b> Blowing	<b>SG</b> Snow grains	<b>DU</b> Dust	<b>+FC</b> Tornado or waterspout
	<b>SH</b> Showers	<b>IC</b> Ice crystals (diamond dust)	<b>SA</b> Sand	<b>SS</b> Sandstorm
	<b>TS</b> Thunderstorms	<b>PL</b> Ice pellets	<b>HZ</b> Haze	<b>DS</b> Dust storm
	<b>FZ</b> Freezing	<b>GR</b> Hail	<b>PY</b> Spray	
	<b>PR</b> Partial	<b>GS</b> Small hail or snow pellets	<b>VA</b> Volcanic ash	
		<b>UP</b> *Unknown precipitation		

The weather groups are constructed by considering columns 1–5 in this table in sequence: intensity, followed by descriptor, followed by weather phenomena (e.g., heavy rain showers(s) is coded as +SHRA).  
 \* Automated stations only

Sky Cover	Contraction
Less than 1/8 (Clear)	SKC, CLR, FEW
1/8–2/8 (Few)	FEW
3/8–4/8 (Scattered)	SCT
5/8–7/8 (Broken)	BKN
8/8 or (Overcast)	OVC

Basic Cloud Types	
<b>Cumulus</b>	heaped or piled clouds
<b>Stratus</b>	formed in layers
<b>Cirrus</b>	ringlets, fibrous clouds, also high level clouds above 20,000 feet
<b>Nimbus</b>	rain-bearing clouds
<b>Alto</b>	middle level clouds existing at 5,000 to 20,000 feet

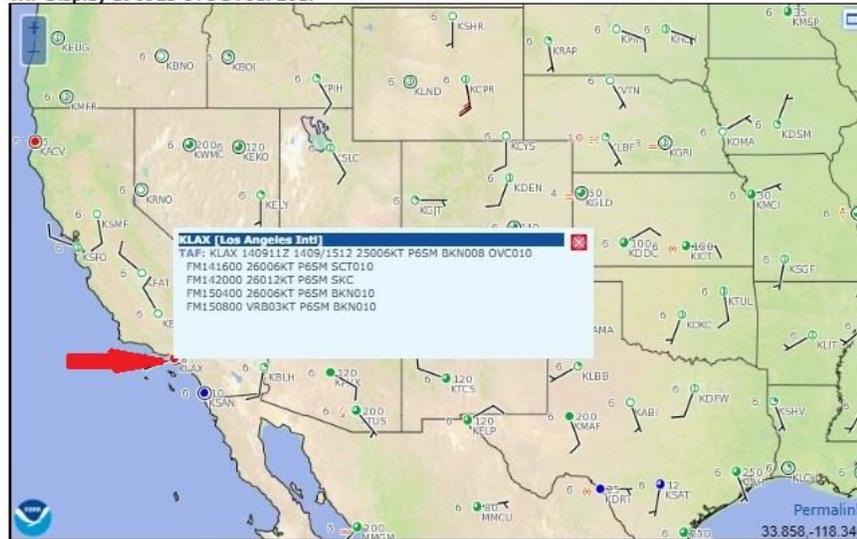


## Cloud Abbreviations

CI	Cirrus	ST	Stratus
CS	Cirrostratus	SF	Stratus <u>Fractus</u>
CC	Cirrostratus	SC	Stratocumulus
AS	Altostratus	CU	Cumulus
AC	Altocumulus	CUFRA	Cumulus <u>Fractus</u>
NS	Nimbostratus	TCU	Towering Cumulus
CB	Cumulonimbus	ACC	Altocumulus <u>Castellanus</u>



TAF Display at 0923 UTC 14 Jul 2017



**Example:** TAF KPIR 111130Z 1112/1212 TEMPO 1112/1114 5SM BR  
FM1500 16015G25KT P6SM SCT040 BKN250  
FM120000 14012KT P6SM BKN080 OVC150 PROB30 1200/1204 3SM TSRA BKN030CB  
FM120400 1408KT P6SM SCT040 OVC080 TEMPO 1204/1208 3SM TSRA OVC030CB

The TAF includes the following information in sequential order:

- **ICAO station identifier:** the station identifier is the same as that used in a METAR.
- **Date and time of origin:** time and date (**081125Z**) of TAF origination is given in the six-number code with the first two being the date, the last four being the time. Time is always given in UTC as denoted by the Z (for Zulu) following the time block.
- **Valid period dates and times:** The TAF valid period (**0812/0912**) follows the date/time of forecast origin group. Scheduled **24 and 30 hours**. The first two digits (08) are the day of the month for the start of the TAF. The next two digits (12) are the starting hour (UTC). 09 is the day of the month for the end of the TAF, and the last two digits (12) are the ending hour (UTC) of the valid period.
- **Forecast wind:** the wind direction and speed forecast are coded in a five-digit number group. An example would be **15011KT**. The first three digits indicate the direction of the wind in reference to true north. The last two digits state the wind speed in knots appended with "KT." Like the METAR, winds greater than 99 knots are given in three digits.
- **Forecast visibility:** given in statute miles and may be in whole numbers or fractions. If the forecast is greater than six miles, it is coded as "**P6SM.**"
- **Forecast significant weather:** weather phenomena are coded in the TAF reports in the same format as the METAR.
- **Forecast sky condition:** given in the same format as the METAR. Only CB clouds are forecast in this portion of the TAF report as opposed to CBs and towering cumulus in the METAR.
- **Forecast change group:** for any significant weather change forecast to occur during the TAF time period, the expected conditions and time period are included in this group. This information may be shown as **from (FM)**, and **temporary (TEMPO)**. "FM" is used when a rapid and significant change, usually within an hour, is expected. "TEMPO" is used for temporary fluctuations of weather, expected to last less than 1 hour.
- **PROB30:** a given percentage that describes the probability of thunderstorms and precipitation occurring in the coming hours. This forecast is not used for the first 6 hours of the 24-hour forecast.