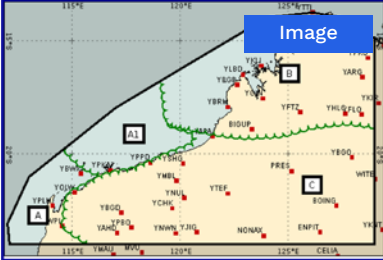


# GAF reference card

The **Graphical Area Forecast (GAF)** provides forecast weather information for the airspace between the surface and 10,000 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) in a graphical layout with supporting text.



**Image**

AREA	SURFACE VIS AND WX	CLOUD, ICING AND TURB	FZLVL
<b>A</b>	>10KM NIL	SCT SC 1500/2500FT SEA (BKN SEA/LAND A1 TL 00Z) SCT CU/SC 6000/ABV10000FT	ABV 10000FT
		MOD TURB BLW 8000FT IN PO AND T FM 01Z	
<b>B</b>	>10KM NIL	BKN ST 1000/2000FT LAND TL 00Z, SCT 30NM INLAND TL 01Z SCT CU/SC 4000/ABV10000FT, BASES 2000FT SEA/30NM INLAND	ABV 10000FT
	2000M ISOL SHRA	ISOL TCU 4000/ABV10000FT, BASES 2000FT SEA/30NM INLAND BKN ST 1000/2000FT	
	1000M ISOL TSRA	ISOL CB 4000/ABV10000FT, BASES 2000FT SEA/30NM INLAND BKN ST 1000/2000FT	
<b>C</b>	>10KM NIL	SCT CU/SC 5000/ABV10000FT, BASES 9000FT S OF YBGD/WITE	ABV 10000FT
	3000M ISOL SHRA	ISOL TCU 5000/ABV10000FT, BASES 9000FT S OF YBGD/WITE BKN ST 2000/4000FT, 4000FT/6000FT S OF YBGD/WITE	
	1000M ISOL TSRA	ISOL CB 5000/ABV10000FT, BASES 9000FT S OF YBGD/WITE BKN ST 2000/4000FT, 4000FT/6000FT S OF YBGD/WITE	

**Table**

**Legend**

All heights AMSL  
 TS / CB / TCU implies SEV ICE and SEV TURB  
 CU / SC / AC implies MOD TURB CLD ABV F  
 Speed of movement in KT      • refers to forecast corrections  
 ■ refers to Limit of Forecast      • refers to forecast corrections  
 Check AIRMETS, SIGMETs and NOTAMs

**Remarks**

REMARKS:

For more information contact (08) 9263 2259

## GAF layout

The **header** contains the title of the product, GAF area name, issue time and validity times.

The **image** shows weather areas, separated by green scalloped lines and labelled with alpha or alphanumeric characters.

The **legend** specifies critical information denoted within the GAF.

The **remarks** field includes additional information of operational relevance, including forecasts for critical

locations and a summary of any GAF corrections.

The **table** provides weather, cloud, visibility, icing, turbulence and freezing level forecasts, and is separated into areas labelled with alpha characters.

### Approved units

- **Distance** nautical miles (NM)
- **Speed** knots (KT)
- **Horizontal visibility** metres (M)
- **Cloud height** feet (FT)
- **Base and top of areas of icing and turbulence** feet (FT)
- **Freezing level** feet (FT)
- **Time** UTC (Z)

Symbol	Weather feature
↘	Cold fronts
L	Significant low pressure systems
---	Significant surface troughs
↙	Direction-of-motion arrows
⌀	Tropical cyclones (severe and non-severe)

## Approved abbreviations and terms used in GAFs

Abbr/ Term	Description	Abbr/ Term	Description	Abbr/ Term	Description
ABV	Above	FM	From	SG	Snow Grains
AC	Alto cumulus	GR	Hail	SS	Sandstorm
AS	Altostratus	GS	Small hail or snow pellets	SCT	Scattered
BECMG	Becoming	HZ	Haze	SEV	Severe
BLW	Below	+	Heavy	SH	Shower/s
BL	Blowing	ICE	Icing	SN	Snow
BKN	Broken	IMPR	Improvement in conditions	S	South
BR	Mist	INTER	Intermittent conditions	SE	South-east
CAVOK	Cloud and visibility and weather OK	ISOL	Isolated	SW	South-west
CLD	Cloud	ISOL	Isolated	SQ	Squall
CLD ON GND	Cloud on ground	KM	Kilometres	SQL	Squall Line
COR	Correction	KT	Knot	STNR	Stationary
CB	Cumulonimbus	-	Light	SC	Stratocumulus
CU	Cumulus	L	Low pressure	SFC	Surface
DR	Drifting	M	Metres	ST	Stratus
DU	Dust	MOD	Moderate	TEMPO	Temporary conditions
DS	Dust Storm	MTW	Mountain Waves	TL	Until
DZ	Drizzle	NM	Nautical mile	TS	Thunderstorm
E	East	NIL	Nil	TOP(S)	Cloud Top(s)
ELEV	Elevation	NS	Nimbostratus	TCU	Towering cumulus
EMBD	Embedded	N	North	TRANS ERR	Transmission error
FEW	Few	NE	North-east	TURB	Turbulence
FC	Funnel Cloud	NW	North-west	TYPO	Typographical error
FG	Fog	OBSC	Obscured	VAL	Valley/s
FT	Feet	OCNL	Occasional	VA	Volcanic Ash
FU	Smoke	OVC	Overcast	VIS	Visibility
FZ	Freezing	PL	Ice Pellets	W	West
FZ LZR	Freezing Layer	PO	Dust Devils	WDSPR	Widespread
FZLVL	Freezing Level	RA	Rain	WI	Within
FRQ	Frequent	SA	Sand	Z	Zulu/UTC time

Further aviation educational resources can be found at [www.bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre](http://www.bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre). The Bureau material in this reference card is licenced under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence and any successors. The Bureau disclaimer applies to Bureau material in this reference card, refer to [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

| A vertical line in the margin indicates a text amendment since last update.