



The Bureau is implementing ICAO Annex 3 specifications for AIRMET.

Introduction

The Bureau is introducing changes to its AIRMET format on **10 November 2016**. Most of these changes are being made to align the AIRMET with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Annex 3 specifications. The proposed AIRMET will follow a very similar format to the existing SIGMET format.

In addition, the current Australian text ARFOR will be replaced by an ICAO compliant Graphical Area Forecast (GAF) product in November 2017. GAF's will not be amended, and therefore an AIRMET will be solely responsible for notifying users of specific changes to conditions not already contained in the relevant GAF.

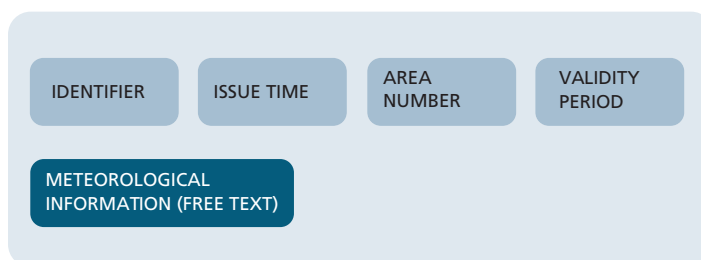
Key changes

Coding format changes

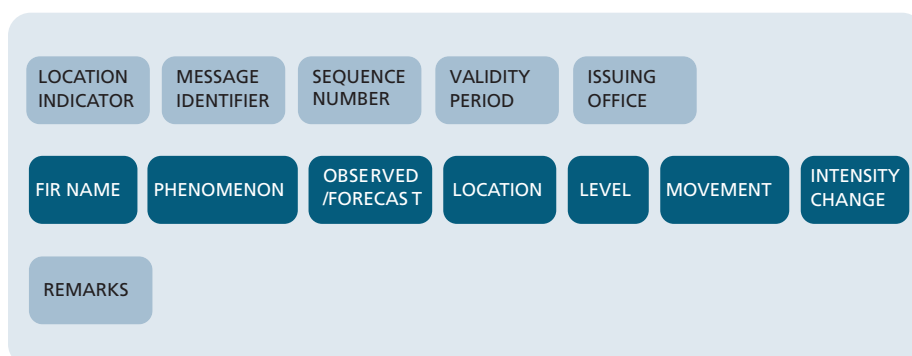
To meet ICAO coding format the AIRMET will include the following specifics:

- Use of approved ICAO abbreviations;
- Introduction of sequence numbers – two digit numbers providing sequential count of the number of AIRMET issued per FIR since 0001 UTC on the day concerned;
- The validity period of an AIRMET shall not exceed 4 hours;
- Inclusion of a remark ('RMK') line, to list the identifiers of ARFOR that are impacted by the AIRMET. In addition, 'SEE ALSO YXXX' will be included when cross-referencing of AIRMET messages is required to any matching AIRMET in the other FIR.

AIRMET format (pre 10 November 2016)



AIRMET format (from 10 November 2016)



Issuance criteria changes

The following criteria apply to the issuance of AIRMETs:

Current AIRMET	Proposed AIRMET
Vertical coverage: Surface to FL200	Vertical coverage: Surface to 10000FT
Not cancelled but superseded by next issue of the Area Forecast	Must be cancelled
Validity can exceed 4 hours	Maximum validity of 4 hours
When the wind at the lowest level forecast (e.g. 2000 FT) is expected to increase by at least 20 KT to at least 40 KT	Not required
Extensive areas of visibility of less than 8 KM	Extensive areas of visibility of less than 8 KM
No criteria for mountain obscuration	Mountains obscuration included
Extensive areas of cloud coverage of BKN or more below 1500 FT above ground level	Extensive areas of cloud coverage of BKN or more below 1500 FT above ground level
Thunderstorms – Cumulonimbus or towering cumulus cloud not specifically mentioned	Thunderstorms – Isolated, occasional or frequent cumulonimbus or towering cumulus cloud mentioned
Moderate mountain waves	Moderate mountain waves
Moderate icing or moderate turbulence (not associated with convective cloud)	Moderate icing or moderate turbulence (not associated with convective cloud)

Examples of the current and proposed AIRMET Format

Current AIRMET	Proposed AIRMET
Example 1: AIRMET for Fog	
AIRMET 231400Z AREA 21 VALID 231400/232300 FOG FORECAST WITH VISIBILITY BELOW 1000M FROM 1400Z E RANGES. AMEND AREA FORECAST FOLLOWS	YMMM AIRMET 01 VALID 231400/231800 YSRF – YMMM MELBOURNE VIS 0300M (FG) FCST WIYORG – KIAN –YBOM –YSCN SFC/0600FT STNR NC RMK: AREA 21
Example 2: AIRMET for Thunderstorm	
AIRMET 190530Z AREA 52 VALID 190530/190930 THUNDERSTORMS OBSERVED AT 0525Z WITHIN AREA YCFH TO YMRE TO YCBPTO YALA SFC/FL400 MOV S 05KT NC. AMEND AREA FORECAST FOLLOWS.	YMMM AIRMET 02 VALID 190530/190930 YPRM –YMMM MELBOURNE FIR ISOLTS OBS AT 0525Z WIYCFH - MRE -YCBP - YALATOP ABV 10000FT MOV S 05KT NC RMK: AREA 52

Current AIRMET	Proposed AIRMET
Example 3 - AIRMET for turbulence affecting two FIRs	
<p>AIRMET for AREA 20: AIRMET 230300Z AREA 20 VALID 230800/231200 MODTURB FORECAST FROM 0330Z WITHIN AREA YORG TO YBIA TO YGFN TO YSBK SFC/FL080 MOV E 05KT NC. AMEND AREA FORECAST FOLLOWS.</p> <p>AIRMET for AREA 21: AIRMET 230300Z AREA 21 VALID 230800/231200 MODTURB FORECAST FROM 0330Z WITHIN AREA YCTM TO YORG TO YSBK TO YSNW SFC/FL080 MOV E 05KT NC. AMEND AREA FORECAST FOLLOWS.</p>	<p>AIRMET for Melbourne FIR: YMMM AIRMET 01 VALID 230800/231200 YSRF – YMMM MELBOURNE FIR MODTURB FCST WI YCTM – YBIA –YGFN –YSNW SFC/8000FT MOV E 05KT NC RMK: AREA 20, 21 SEE ALSO YBBB 01</p> <p>AIRMET for Brisbane FIR: YBBB AIRMET 01 VALID 230800/231200 YSRF – YBBB BRISBANE FIR MODTURB FCST WI YCTM –YBIA –YGFN –YSNW SFC/8000FT MOV E 05KT NC RMK: AREA 20, 21 SEE ALSO YMMM 01</p>
Example 4 - Cancel AIRMET for Example 2	
<p><i>AIRMETs currently not cancelled but superseded by next issue of ARFOR.</i></p>	<p>YMMM AIRMET 04 VALID 190830/190930 YPRM – YMMM MELBOURNE FIR CNL AIRMET 02 190530/190930 RMK: AREA 52</p>

Additional changes

It is proposed that along with the format changes the following requirements be implemented :

- AIRMETs will not be issued to notify of improvements to weather on ARFOR (amended ARFORs can be issued)
- AIRMETs can be issued per ARFOR (like current ARFOR practice) or per phenomena that could be across FIR as well (like SIGMETs) at the forecasters discretion
- AIRMET will be cancelled when phenomenon is included in the amended ARFOR.

Graphical AIRMETs

In addition to text-based AIRMETs, the Bureau is proposing to produce a graphical representation of AIRMETs, similar to graphical SIGMETs.



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Airservices Australia is the official distributor of aviation forecasts, warnings and observations issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. Airservices' flight briefing services are available at www.airservicesaustralia.com. Telephone contact details for elaborative briefings are contained in Airservices' Aeronautical Information Publication Australia (AIP), which is available online through their website.

Other brochures produced by the Bureau of Meteorology's aviation weather services program can be found at www.bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre.

A vertical line in the right-hand margin indicates a text amendment since last update.