

SIGMET reference card

A SIGMET contains observed or forecast information on one of the following:

Code	Description
OBSC TS	Obscured thunderstorms
EMBD TS	Embedded thunderstorms
FRQ TS	Frequent thunderstorms
SQL TS	Squall line thunderstorms
OBSC TSGR	Obscured thunderstorms with hail
EMBD TSGR	Embedded thunderstorms with hail
FRQ TSGR	Frequent thunderstorms with hail
SQL TSGR	Squall line thunderstorms with hail
TC (+ TC name)	Tropical cyclone (+ TC name)

Code	Description
SEV TURB	Severe turbulence
SEV ICE	Severe icing
SEV ICE (FZRA)	Severe icing due to freezing rain
SEV MTW	Severe mountain wave
HVY DS	Heavy dust storm
HVY SS	Heavy sandstorm
VA ERUPTION (+ MT name)	Volcanic ash eruption (+ Mountain name)
RDOACT CLD	Radioactive cloud

A SIGMET provides information on the location, vertical extent, expected movement and change in intensity of the specified phenomenon.

SIGMET for thunderstorms do not include reference to cumulonimbus cloud or associated icing and turbulence as their presence is implied.

SIGMET for tropical cyclones include reference to the height of cumulonimbus cloud tops but no reference is made to thunderstorms, icing and turbulence as their presence is implied.

SIGMET structure

FIR	Message identifier	Sequence number	Validity period	Originating office
FIR	Status indicator	Meteorological Information		
Remarks				

Sequence number

The three-character sequence number consists of:

- a **single alpha character** that will be assigned to the SIGMET event (e.g. TC) and will be used for any subsequent SIGMETs issued for that event within the FIR. Alpha characters are not necessarily assigned alphabetically.
- a **two-digit number**, being a sequential count of the number of SIGMETs issued for the event within the FIR. 01 will always be used for new SIGMETs.

Validity

The validity period is given in the format DDHHMM/DDHHMM, where DD is the day of the month and HHMM is the time in hours and minutes UTC.

Originating office

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) location indicators for Australian Meteorological Watch Offices are:

YBRF Brisbane

YMRF Melbourne

YMMC Hazardous Weather Unit (HWU), Melbourne

FIR

The abbreviation and full name of the Flight Information Region for which the SIGMET is issued.

Status indicator

Status indicator is included for a test (TEST) or exercise (EXER) if required.

Meteorological information

- type of phenomenon
- observed or forecast
- location, both horizontal and vertical extent
- movement or expected movement
- expected change in intensity
- forecast position (only in SIGMET for VA)

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SEV TURB FCST WI S3200
E12800 - S3200 E13000 - S4700
E13600 FL260/400 STNR NC
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The first point of a polygon is not repeated when describing the horizontal extent. The polygon describes the location at the beginning of the validity period. Vertical extent will be given in feet for levels at and below 10000FT AMSL, and in flight levels above 10000FT AMSL.

Cancelling a SIGMET

If during the validity period of a SIGMET the phenomenon described in the SIGMET is no longer occurring or is no longer expected, the

SIGMET is cancelled by issuing a SIGMET with the abbreviation CNL in lieu of meteorological information.

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YBBB BRISBANE FIR CNL SIGMET
C02 01200/101600
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RMK (remarks) line

The remarks line includes the following information:

- a **location designator** which provides a quick reference on the location of the phenomenon
- **reference** to any SIGMET in the adjoining FIR (YMMM or YBBB) that is current for the same event.

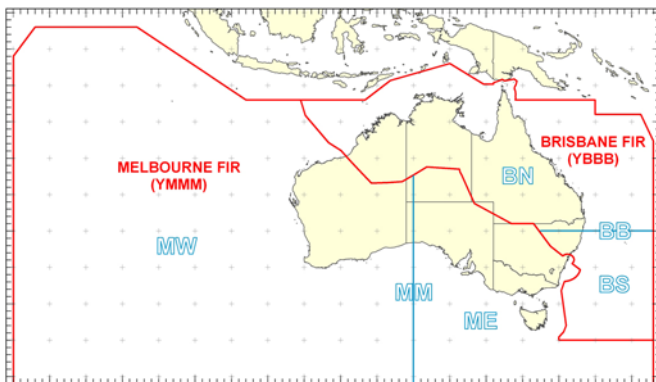
The two-letter **location designators** are shown in the diagram below.

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RMK: BN
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RMK: ME
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Reference to another SIGMET will be included when there is a SIGMET current for the same event in the adjoining FIR (YMMM or YBBB), i.e. when the phenomenon straddles the YMMM and YBBB FIR boundary.

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RMK: BN SEE ALSO YMMM D01 =
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MW is used for events in YMMM to the west of 130E

MM is used for events in YMMM that cross 130E

ME is used for events in YMMM east of 130E

BN is used for events in YBBB north of 30S

BB is used for events in YBBB that cross 30S

BS is used for events in YBBB south of 30S

Further aviation educational resources produced by the Bureau of Meteorology can be found at www.bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre.

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