

**AERONAUTICAL
INFORMATION
CIRCULAR (AIC)****H65/20****Effective: 202010300200 UTC**

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IMPLEMENTATION OF TAF3 (THREE-HOURLY AERODROME FORECAST)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This AIC cancels and replaces AIC H55/20 with a change made to the times in para 1.2.
- 1.2 Following requests from the aviation industry, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) will be ceasing its Trend Forecast (TTF) service and introducing a three-hourly, highly responsive Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) service known as a TAF3 on 4 November 2020. The TTF service will cease at 1300 UTC and the new TAF3 service will commence at 1800 UTC.
- 1.3 The TAF3 has identical code format as a traditional TAF but will be issued routinely every three hours and amended to provide similar responsiveness, accuracy and operational meteorological information as the current TTF.

2. TAF3 SERVICE INFORMATION

- 2.1 Like all TAF, the TAF3 is kept under continuous weather watch and as a premium service, it receives priority and proactive amendments to ensure it contains the latest forecast information.
 - 2.2 TAF3 service will be provided by the BoM, 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the ten busiest airports in Australia. These include aerodromes currently receiving a TTF service, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Cairns, Canberra and Darwin and will be extended to include Gold Coast and Hobart.
 - 2.3 Additionally, TAF3 service will be provided at the following military aerodromes when staffed by defence decision support meteorologists: Williamtown, Nowra, Tindal, Oakey, Townsville, Pearce, Amberley and East Sale.
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- 2.4 TAF3 has the same validity as existing TAF service, i.e. valid 18-30 hours.
- 2.5 In the rare event that the BoM needs to cease issuing a major airport or military TAF3 service, a NOTAM will be issued to inform users; in which case the service will revert to the provision of a standard TAF.
- 2.6 'TAF3' is included in the remarks section of the forecast, for identification. Where the TAF3 service is not provided 24 hours a day, the remarks line will indicate the time at which the TAF3 service will be replaced by a standard TAF service.
- 2.7 To limit prolonged periods of probability (PROB) forecasts affecting aviation operations, meteorologists will use From (FM) groups in the first three hours of the TAF3, wherever possible, to indicate the onset, cessation and gaps in meteorological phenomena.
- 2.8 The TAF3 will offer flight planning rules similar to those of the TTF. For information regarding associated flight planning rules, please refer to the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) book effective 5 November 2020 – *AIP ENR 1.1 para 11.7.2.9*.
- 2.9 AIP and ERSA effective from 5 November 2020 are available on the Airservices Australia [website](#) and are updated to reflect changes to these services.
- 2.10 More information on the TAF3 service, including a detailed TAF3 brochure, frequently asked questions (TAF3 FAQ) and a TAF3 educational video, can be found on the Bureau of Meteorology website: www.bom.gov.au/aviation/taf3/.
- 2.11 TAF3 examples are included at Appendix 1.

3. CHANGES TO VOLMET/AERIS BROADCAST

- 3.1 TTF will no longer be included as a component of VOLMET and AERIS broadcasts. In its place, information from the TAF will be included where operationally significant conditions are forecast to occur within three hours of the scheduled broadcast. METAR and SPECI will continue to be broadcast consistent with current practice.
 - 3.2 Due to broadcast time constraints, the TAF for each location will be assessed against a series of criteria and if any one of these represent an operationally significant condition, forecast to occur within three hours of the scheduled broadcast, the TAF for that location will be included in the broadcast. If no significant elements are identified in this period, the identifier 'NOSIG' will be appended to the corresponding METAR/SPECI.
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- 3.3 There remains the possibility that a VOLMET broadcast will be truncated to fit within the allocated 5-minute window, this is true in the current environment but may become a more frequent event as TAF content tends to be more detailed than TTF. AERIS broadcast has no time limit and will not be truncated.
- 3.4 The order in which VOLMET content will be omitted is a reverse of the order in which it is intended to present. A complete VOLMET broadcast will end with the phrase 'Australian VOLMET out', in the absence of this phrase it is reasonable to infer that the broadcast has been truncated. Any content expected to be broadcast based on the METAR/SPECI presentation may be obtained from Flightwatch if required.

4. CANCELLATION

- 4.1 This AIC self-cancels on 15 December 2020.

5. DISTRIBUTION

- 5.1 Airservices Australia website only.

Appendix

1. TAF3 Examples
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1. TAF3 Examples

24/7 TAF3 Service

TAF YBCG 292313Z 3000/0100
22008KT 9999 FEW030
FM300215 33012KT 9999 FEW020
FM300800 27006KT 9999 FEW018
FM302300 35014KT 9999 SCT020
PROB30 TEMPO 3004/3008 VRB20G35KT 3000 TSRA SCT015 BKN025
SCT045CB
RMK
T 25 26 25 23 Q 1003 1001 1002 1004
TAF3

TAF AMD YBCG 300215Z 3003/0100
33012KT 9999 SCT020
FM300800 27006KT 9999 FEW018
FM302300 35014KT 9999 SCT020
PROB30 TEMPO 3005/3009 VRB20G35KT 3000 TSRA SCT015 BKN025
SCT045CB
RMK
T 29 25 23 22 Q 1001 1002 1004 1006
TAF3

TAF AMD YBCG 300420Z 3005/0106
24020G35KT 2000 +TSRA SCT012 BKN022 SCT040CB
FM300545 26014KT 8000 -RA FEW008 BKN018
FM300700 27006KT 9999 NSW SCT010
FM302300 35014KT 9999 SCT020
PROB30 TEMPO 0104/0106 VRB15G25KT 3000 TSRA SCT015 BKN025
SCT045CB
RMK
T 26 23 22 20 Q 1002 1004 1006 1007
TAF3

Limited TAF3 Service (Military)

TAF YAMB 142314Z 1500/1600
26013KT 9999 FEW040
FM150900 27006KT CAVOK
FM151800 VRB04KT 9999 MIFG NSC
FM152200 28007KT 9999 NSW FEW030
RMK
T 17 22 21 13 Q 1016 1013 1012 1014
TAF3 VALID TL 150300