

Aviation abbreviations

A	Altitude
ABV	Above
AC	Altostratus
AD	Aerodrome
AGL	Above ground level
AH	After hours
AIP	Aeronautical information publication
AIREP	Air-report
AIRMET	Information concerning en-route weather phenomena which may affect the safety of low-level aircraft operations
AMD	Amend, amended, amendment
AMDAR	Aircraft meteorological data relay
AMSL	Above mean sea level
APCH	Approach
APRX	Approximate, approximately
AQZ	Area QNH zone
ARP	Air-report or AIREP
ARS	Special air-report
AS	Altostratus
ATC	Air traffic control
ATIS	Automatic terminal information service
ATS	Air traffic services
ATSAS	Automated thunderstorm alert service
AUTO	Automatic (in METAR/SPECI)
AVBL	Available, availability
AVFAX	Meteorological and NOTAM facsimile service
AWB	Airport weather briefing
AWIS	Aerodrome weather information service
AWC	Aviation weather centre
AWR	Aerodrome weather report
AWS	Automatic weather station
BASE	Cloud base
BC ..	Patches
BECMG	Becoming
BKN	Broken (cloud amount: 5 – 7 oktas)
BL ..	Blowing
BLW	Below
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BR	Mist

C	Degrees Celsius
CA/GRS	Certified air/ground radio service
CAPE	Convective available potential energy
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CAT	Category
CAT	Clear air turbulence
CAVOK	Visibility, cloud and present weather better than prescribed values or conditions (pronounced “KAV-OH’KAY”)
CB	Cumulonimbus
CC	Cirrocumulus
CI	Cirrus
CLD	Cloud
CLR	Clear, cleared, clearance
CNL	Cancel, cancelled
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COM	Communications
COR	Correct, corrected, correction
CS	Cirrostratus
CTC	Contact
CU	Cumulus
CUF	Cumuliform
D	Downward tendency (RVR)
DALR	Dry adiabatic lapse rate
DEG	Degrees
DL	Distant lightning
DP	Dew point temperature
DR ..	Low drifting
DS	Duststorm
DSI	Dust storm index
DTG	Date-time group
DU	Dust
DZ	Drizzle
E	East, eastern longitude
ELEV	Elevation
EMBD	Embedded (in a layer)
END	Stop end (runway)
ENE	East north-east
EQN	Equatorial latitudes northern hemisphere
EQS	Equatorial latitudes southern hemisphere
ERSA	En route supplement Australia

Reference material – aviation abbreviations

ESE	East south-east
EST	Estimate, estimated, estimation
EXER	Exercise, exercises, exercising
EXP	Expect, expected, expecting
F160	SkewT-LogP aerological diagram
FAC	Facility, facilities
FBL	Light (feeble)
FC	Funnel cloud (tornado or waterspout)
FCST	Forecast
FEW	Few (cloud amount description: 1 – 2 oktas)
FG	Fog
FIFOR	Flight forecast
FIR	Flight information region
FL	Flight level
FM	From
FNA	Final approach
FRQ	Frequent
FT	Feet
FU	Smoke
FZ ..	Freezing
FZLVL	Freezing Level
FZ LZR	Freezing layer
G	Gust (variation from mean wind speed)
GA	General aviation
GAF	Graphical area forecast
GDAS	Graphical daily volcanic activity summary
GND	Ground
GNSS	Global navigation satellite system
GPWT	Grid point wind & temperature
GR	Hail
GRIB	Processed meteorological data in the form of grid point values expressed in binary form
GS	Small hail or snow pellets
H	High pressure area or the centre of high pressure
HAM	Highest alternate minimum
HF	High frequency (3,000 to 30,000 kHz)
HF COM	High frequency communications
HIWC	High ice water content
HNH	High latitudes northern hemisphere
HPA	Hectopascals
HR	Hour/s
HSR	High latitudes southern hemisphere
HVY	Heavy
HZ	Haze
HZN	Horizon
IACW	International airways volcano watch
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICE	Icing

IFR	Instrument flight rules
IMC	Instrument meteorological conditions
IMPR	Improve, improving, improvement
INFO	Information
INPR	In progress
INTER	Intermittent (i.e. lasting less than 30 minutes)
INTSF	Intensify, intensifying
INTST	Intensity
IR	Infrared
ISA	International standard atmosphere
ISOL	Isolated
kHz	Kilohertz
KM	Kilometres
KMH	Kilometres per hour
KT	Knots
L	Low pressure area or the centre of low pressure
LAT	Latitude
LCL	Lifting condensation level
LFC	Level of free convection
LI	Lifted index
LIDAR	Light detection and ranging
LOC	Location
LONG	Longitude
LTD	Limited
LVL	Level
M	Metres
M	Minus (for temperature)
MAX	Maximum
MBST	Microburst
MET	Meteorology, meteorological
METAR	Aerodrome routine meteorological report
MET REPORT	Local routine meteorological report
MI ..	Shallow
MID	Mid-point (runway)
MIN	Minutes
MIN	Minimum
MNH	Middle latitudes northern hemisphere
MNT	Monitor, monitored, monitoring
MO	Meteorological office
MOD	Moderate
MOR	Meteorological optical range
MOV	Move, moved, moving, movement
MPS	Metres per second
MS	Minus
MSG	Message
MSH	Middle latitudes southern hemisphere
MSL	Mean sea level
MSLP	Mean sea level pressure

Reference material – aviation abbreviations

MT	Mount, mountain
MTW	Mountain waves
MWO	Meteorological watch office
N	Nil tendency (RVR)
N	North or northern latitude
NAIPS	National aeronautical information processing system
NC	No change
NCD	No cloud detected (by cloud sensor)
NE	North-east
NH	Northern hemisphere
NIL	None
NM	Nautical mile/s
NML	Normal
NN	No name
NNE	North north-east
NNW	North north-west
NOSIG	No significant change
NOTAM	Notice distributed by means of telecommunication containing information concerning the establishment, condition or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard, the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations
NR	Number
NS	Nimbostratus
NSC	Nil significant cloud
NSW	No significant weather
NTA	No TAF amendment
NW	North-west
NWP	Numerical weather prediction
NXT	Next
OBS	Observe, observed, observation
OBSC	Obscure, obscured, obscuring
OCNL	Occasional
OPMET	Operational meteorological information
OVC	Overcast (cloud amount: 8 oktas)
PCA	Planning chart Australia
PL	Ice pellets
PO	Dust/sand whirls (dust devils)
PR ..	Partial
PROB	Probability
PROV	Provisional
PS	Plus
PSN	Position
PW	Precipitable water
Q	QNH (in TAF)
QFE	Atmospheric pressure at aerodrome elevation
QNH	Altimeter subscale setting to obtain elevation or altitude

R	Runway (in METAR/SPECI)
RA	Rain
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RADAR	Radio detection and ranging
RDOACT	Radioactive
RE ..	Recent
REP	Report, reported, reporting
REQ	Request or requested
RF	Rainfall (in METAR/SPECI)
RH	Relative humidity
ROBEX	Regional OPMET bulletin exchange
RMK	Remark(s)
ROFOR	Route forecast
RSWT	Route sector winds and temperatures
RV	Runway visibility
RVR	Runway visual range
RWY	Runway
S	South or southern latitude
SA	Sand
SALR	Saturated adiabatic lapse rate
SAM	Special alternate minimum
SAR	Search and rescue
SATCOM	Satellite communications
SC	Stratocumulus
SCT	Scattered (cloud amount: 3-4 oktas)
SE	South-east
SER	Service, servicing, served
SEV	Severe
SFC	Surface
SG	Snow grains
SH	Shower/s
SH	Southern hemisphere
SIG	Significant
SIGMET	Information concerning en-route weather and other phenomena in the atmosphere that may affect the safety of aircraft operations
SIGWX	Significant weather
SN	Snow
SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
SPECI	Aerodrome special meteorological report
SQ	Squall
SQL	Squall line
SS	Sandstorm
SSE	South south-east
SST	Sea surface temperature
SSW	South south-west
ST	Stratus
STF	Stratiform
STNR	Stationary
SVR	Slant visual range

Reference material – aviation abbreviations

SW	South-west
SWH	Significant weather (SIGWX) forecast – high
SWM	Significant weather (SIGWX) forecast – medium
SWX	Space weather
SWXA	Space weather advisory
SWXC	Space weather centre
T	Temperature
TAF	Aerodrome forecast
TAF3	Aerodrome forecast (issued 3 hourly)
TC	Tropical cyclone
TCA	Tropical cyclone advisory
TCAC	Tropical cyclone advisory centre
TCG	Tropical cyclone advisory graphic
TCU	Terminal control unit
TCU	Towering cumulus
TCWC	Tropical cyclone warning centre
T _d	Dew point temperature
TDO	Tornado
TDZ	Touchdown zone
TEMPO	Temporary conditions (periods of 30-60 minutes)
TEST	Test message
TL..	Until
TMA	Terminal control area
TN	Minimum temperature (in TAF)
TOP	Top (height) of phenomenon
TRANS ERR	Transmission error
TS	Thunderstorm
TT	Total totals
TURB	Turbulence
TX	Maximum temperature (in TAF)
TYPO	Typographical error
U	Upward tendency (RVR)
UNICOM	Universal communication service
UP	Unidentified precipitation
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
UV	Ultraviolet

V	Variation from mean wind speed (in METAR/SPECI)
VA	Volcanic ash
VAA	Volcanic ash advisory
VAAC	Volcanic ash advisory centre
VAG	Volcanic ash advisory graphic
VAL	Valley
VAR	Volcanic activity report
VASEA	Volcanic ash strength of evidence assessment
VC ...	Vicinity
VFR	Visual flight rules
VHF	Very high frequency
VIS	Visibility
VMC	Visual meteorological conditions
VOLMET	Meteorological information for aircraft in flight
VONA	Volcano observatory notice to aviation
VRB	Variable
VV	Vertical visibility
W	West, western longitude
WAFC	World area forecast centre
WAFS	World area forecast system
WATIR	Weather and terminal information reciter
WDI	Wind direction indicator
WDSPR	Widespread
WI	Within (area)
WID	Wide, width
WKN	Weaken, weakening
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WNW	West north-west
WRNG	Warning
WS	Wind shear
WSPD	Wind speed
WSW	West south-west
WTSP	Waterspout
WX	Weather
WXR	Weather radar
Z	Zulu (Coordinated Universal Time, UTC)

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