



# Aviation Weather Services

## SIGMET Reference Card

The format given here will be valid from 30 May 2013\*

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

Code	Description	Code	Description
OBSC TS	Obscured thunderstorms	SEV TURB	Severe turbulence
EMBD TS	Embedded thunderstorms	SEV ICE	Severe icing
FRQ TS	Frequent thunderstorms	SEV ICE (FZRA)	Severe icing due to freezing rain
SQL TS	Squall line thunderstorms	SEV MTW	Severe mountain wave
OBSC TSGR	Obscured thunderstorms with hail	HVY DS	Heavy duststorm
EMBD TSGR	Embedded thunderstorms with hail	HVY SS	Heavy sandstorm
FRQ TSGR	Frequent thunderstorms with hail	VA	Volcanic ash
SQL TSGR	Squall line thunderstorms with hail	RDOACT CLD	Radioactive cloud
TC	Tropical cyclone		

A SIGMET provides information on the location, 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.

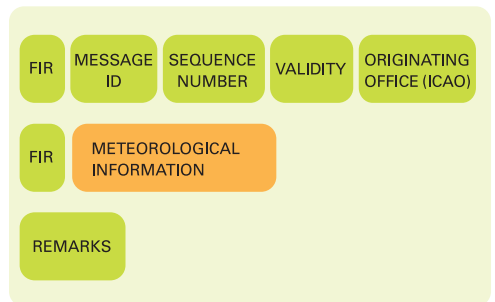
SIGMET for tropical cyclones include reference to the height of cumulonimbus tops but no reference is made to thunderstorms, icing and turbulence as their presence is implied.

### SIGMET STRUCTURE

#### 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. There will not be two Australian SIGMETs current with the same sequence alpha character, even if they refer to the same event which is occurring across the two FIRs (YMMM and YBBB). 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 since the last 0001 UTC.



#### 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:

YPRM	Adelaide	YPRF	Perth
YBRF	Brisbane	YSRF	Sydney
YPDM	Darwin	YMRF	Melbourne
YMHF	Hobart	YMMC	Aviation Weather Centre Melb.

\* Refer to <http://www.bom.gov.au/aviation/data/education/awp-sigmet-2012.pdf> for the pre-30 May format.

## FIR

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

## Meteorological Information

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

SEV TURB FCST WI S3200  
E12800 - S3200 E13000 - S4700  
E13600 FL260/400 STNR NC

The first point of a polygon is not repeated when describing the horizontal extent. Vertical extent will be given in feet for levels below 10 000 ft, and in flight levels at and above 10 000 ft, except when the event extends across the transition level in which case only FL will be used, e.g. FL080/150.

## Cancelling a SIGMET

If during the validity period of a SIGMET, the phenomenon for which 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.

YBBB BRISBANE FIR CNL SIGMET  
C02 01200/101600

CNL is also included in the RMK (remarks) line.

## RMK (remarks) Line

The remarks line includes the following information:

- a **location designator** which provides a quick reference on the location of the phenomenon
- **message status** information
- **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.

The **message status** will be one of the following:

- **NEW** to indicate that the SIGMET is for a new phenomenon in the FIR.
- **REV** to indicate that the SIGMET reviews an earlier SIGMET issued for the phenomenon.
- **CNL** to indicate that the SIGMET cancels a current SIGMET.

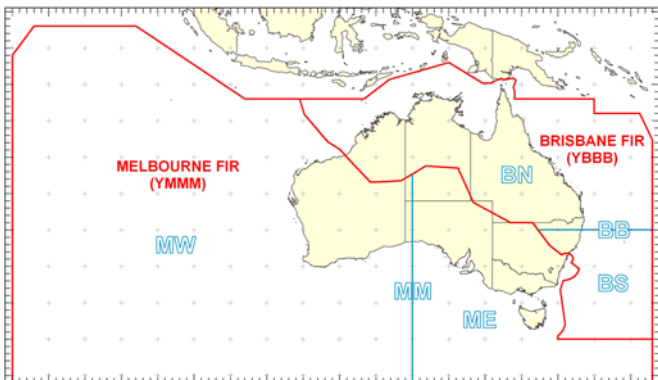
RMK: BN NEW

RMK: BN REV M01 100800/101200

RMK: BN CNL M02

**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/YBBB FIR boundary.

RMK: BN REV C02 100800/101200  
SEE ALSO YBBB D01



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 YMMM east of 130E

BN is used for events in YBBB north of 30S

BB is used for events YBBB that cross 30S

BS is used for events YBBB south of 30S

