

ADVISORY CIRCULAR

CAA-AC-MET008
December 2022

GUIDANCE ON TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS RELATED TO PREPARATION AND ISSUANCE OF AERODROME WARNINGS

1.0 PURPOSE

This Advisory Circular (AC) provides guidance to the MET service provider on the technical specifications related to the preparation and issuance of aerodrome warnings.

2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1.1 Regulation 47 and Schedule 6 of the Civil Aviation (Meteorological Service for Air navigation) Regulations, 2022.
- 2.2 ICAO Doc. 8896; Manual of Aeronautical Meteorological Practice

3.0 GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The Civil Aviation (Meteorological Service for Air Navigation) Regulation, 2022, under Regulation 47 require the Meteorological Service Provider to establish aerodrome meteorological offices designated to provide MET services to the aerodromes.
- 3.1.2 The aerodrome meteorological office shall prepare and issue aerodrome warnings in accordance with Regulation 47 of the Civil Aviation (Meteorological Service for Air Navigation) Regulation, 2022 and the detailed criteria set out in this Advisory Circular.
- 3.1.3 Aerodrome warnings should provide concise information of meteorological conditions that could adversely affect aircraft on ground, including parked aircrafts and aerodrome facilities and services.

3.2 SPECIFICATIONS RELATED TO AERODROME WARNINGS

3.2.1 Users of aerodrome warnings

Aerodrome warnings should be made available to aviation users, including air traffic control units, airport operators and general aviation pilots. Warnings are displayed via the meteorological Briefing offices. Warning alerts by email may also be made available, ensuring that aviation users can be alerted

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in advance of conditions that may affect aerodrome operations in accordance with specified lead times.

3.2.2 Format and dissemination of aerodrome warnings

- 3.2.2.1 The aerodrome warnings shall be issued as required by operators or aerodrome services and shall be disseminated in accordance with local arrangements to those concerned.
- 3.2.2.2 The sequence number in the warnings shall correspond with the number of aerodrome warnings issued for the aerodrome starting from 0001 UTC on a particular day.
- 3.2.2.2 Aerodrome warnings should relate to the occurrence or expected occurrence of one or more of the following phenomena:
 - (i) Tropical cyclone (to be included if the 10-minute mean surface wind speed at the aerodrome is expected to be 17 m/s (34 kt) or more.
 - (ii) Thunderstorm
 - (iii) Hail
 - (iv) Snow (including the expected or observed snow accumulation)
 - (v) Freezing precipitation
 - (vi) Hoar frost or rime
 - (vii) Sandstorm and duststorm
 - (viii) Rising sand or dust
 - (ix) Strong surface wind and gusts
 - (x) Squall
 - (xi) Frost
 - (xii) Volcanic ash
 - (xiii) Volcanic ash deposition
 - (xiv) Toxic chemicals
 - (xv) Other phenomena as agreed locally.
- 3.2.3 The use of text additional to the abbreviations listed in the table in *Appendix 1* to this Advisory Circular should be kept to a minimum. Any additional text should be prepared in abbreviated plain language using approved ICAO abbreviations listed in *Appendix II*. If no ICAO approved abbreviations are available for any weather phenomena, English plain language text should be used.
- 3.2.4 The warnings should be disseminated directly to aviation users including air traffic services units, aerodrome operators in accordance with arrangements between the meteorological services provider and the users concerned. The warnings should be disseminated to pilots via the meteorological Briefing office and/or displayed on aviation briefing service monitors. Warning alerts by email could be used to ensure that aviation users are alerted in advance of conditions that may affect aerodrome operations in accordance with specified lead times.
- 3.2.5 Aerodrome warnings should be issued with at least a six-hour lead time, except for thunderstorm warnings that should be issued with a lead time of one hour. The warnings should cover all or part of the six-hour periods. The maximum validity period for aerodrome warnings should be 6-hour validity period of warnings and minimum lead time of at least 15 mins for thunderstorm warnings and 6 hours for other warnings.
- 3.2.6 The set times for updating the aerodrome warnings allows the MET service provider appropriate lead

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times for providing advance notice of hazards relevant to aviation. This assists aerodromes and pilots planning to respond to these hazards accordingly.

3.2.7 When the phenomenon is forecasted the aerodrome warning shall be issued not more than 24 hours before the commencement of the period of validity.

Phenomenon (1)	Template (2)
Mean wind speed with maximum wind gust	SFC WSPD nn[n]KT MAX nn[n]
Mean surface wind (direction and speed) and maximum wind gust	SFC WIND nnn/nn[n]KT MAX nn[n]
Accumulated precipitation in 1 or 12	RAINFALL IN 1HR MORE THAN nnMM
hours	RAINFALL IN 12HR MORE THAN nn[n]MM
Thunderstorm	[HVY] TS
Squall (3)	SQ
Hail	GR
Freezing precipitation	[HVY] FZRA o [HVY] FZDZ
Sandstorm	[HVY] SS
Duststorm	[HVY] DS
Swirling sand or dust	SA (sand), DU (dust)
Volcanic ash [volcanic ash deposition]	VA [DEPO]
Toxic chemicals substances	TOX CHEM

- 3.2.8 From the table 1 above, the weather phenomena should be interpreted as follows;
 - (i) In every warning only one phenomenon is included.
 - (ii) Brackets [] indicate that information inside brackets is included if needed.
 - (iii) Squall (SQ): Strong wind that arises suddenly and usually lasts at least one minute. It differs from wind gusts in its duration. The sudden increase in wind speed is 16 kt (32km/h), and the speed increases to 22 kt or more and lasts at least one minute. Squalls are often associated with large cumulonimbus clouds and a violent convective activity, extending several kilometers horizontally and several thousand feet vertically.
 - (iv) FROST shall always be used with temperature information in degrees Celsius. Negative temperature after FROST shall be preceded by abbreviation MS. T is the ICAO abbreviation for temperature and C for degrees Celsius. Only forecast warnings are given for frost.

3.2.9 Contents of aerodrome warnings

3.2.9.1 Message heading

The heading of the message consists of a line that includes the following:

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WWEN	CCCC	DDHHMM
(a)	(b)	(c)

(a) Aerodrome warning identification. WW is aerodrome warning and EN for Entebbe aerodrome

(b) Location indicator of the aerodrome originating the warnings, HUEN for Entebbe Airport

(c) Day, hour and minutes of message issue in UTC

3.2.9.2 Message content

The message consists of a line that includes the following:

CCCC (a)	AD WRNG n[n] (b)	VALID nnnnnn/nnnnnn (c)	(MET Phenomena) (d)	(observed and/or forecast) (e)	(intensity) (f)
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- (a) CCCC: Location indicator of the aerodrome originating the warning; same as Warning Heading
- (b) Message identification: AD WRNG n[n]
 - (i) AD WRNG: Type of message.
 - (ii) n: sequence number starting at 0001 UTC of the day the warning is issued. Numbering is different for every aerodrome. Only one digit is included for numbers less than 10.
- (c) Period of validity: VALID nnnnnn/nnnnnn
 - (i) Start and end of the validity period using 6 digits (two for the day, two for the hour and two for the minutes, in UTC), for each group separated by «/». Example: VALID 220900/220913.
 - (ii) The validity period may be extended up to a maximum of 24 hours.
- (d) Meteorological phenomenon
 - Each warning includes only one phenomenon from the table 6.
- (e) Observed or forecast phenomenon
 - (i) The following ICAO abbreviations are used:

OBS [AT nnnnZ]: Indicates that the phenomenon was observed [at nnnnZ].

FCST: Indicates that the phenomenon is forecast.

- (ii) Brackets [] after OBS indicate that when time of observation is known it will be included using the format inside the brackets. Example: OBS AT 1045Z.
- (f) Intensity changes
 - When the forecast of intensity changes is known the following abbreviations are used:

INTSF: Intensifying WKN: weakening NC: No changes

3.2.10 Quantitative Criteria for Aerodrome Warnings

The MSP shall ensure that when quantitative criteria are necessary for the issuance of aerodrome warnings covering, for example, the expected maximum wind speed or the expected total rainfall, the criteria used should be as agreed between the aerodrome meteorological office and the users concerned.

3.2.11 Examples of aerodrome warnings

Example 1

WWEN HUEN 100600

HUEN AD WRNG 5 VALID 101200/101800 RAINFALL IN 1HR MORE THAN 45MM FCST NC=

Meaning: Aerodrome Warning No. 5 issued on 10th day of the month at 0600Z for the Entebbe airport, valid for 10th day of the month between 1200Z and 1800Z: total rainfall in 1 hour more than 45mm. Forecast, No changes in intensity expected.

Example 2

WWEN HUEN 122100

HUEN AD WRNG 4 VALID 130600/130800 FROST T MS02C FCST NC=

Meaning: Aerodrome Warning No. 4 issued on 12th day of the month at 2100Z for Entebbe airport, valid for 13th day of month between 0600Z and 0800Z: frost with forecast temperature of -2°C. Forecast, No changes in intensity expected.

Example 3

WWEN HUEN 070800

HUEN AD WRNG 2 VALID 071200/071600 SFC WSP 30KT MAX 40 OBS AT 1155Z INTSF=

Meaning: Aerodrome Warning No. 2 issued on 7th day of the month at 0800Z for Entebbe airport, valid for 7th of the month between 1200Z and 1600Z: wind gusts of 40 knots observed at 1155Z and intensifying.

Example 4

WWEN HUEN 071400

HUEN AD WRNG 3 VALID 071400/071600 CNL AD WRNG 2 071200/071600=

Meaning: At 1400Z strong wind that caused the warning No.3 is no longer observed or forecast, and the warning is cancelled.

3.2.12 Warning of Lightning at Aerodrome

The warnings of lightning observed within or close to the aerodrome detected within a circle of 25 km of radius centered at the airport. The warnings are in Plain English language in BLOCK LETTER.

- 3.2.12.1 Depending on the proximity to the airport, three different areas are defined as;
 - (i) Maximum alert: Circle of 5 km of radius
 - (ii) Alert: Circle of 8 km of radius
 - (iii) Prior alert: Circle of 25 km of radius
- 3.2.12.2 Depending on the location of the lightning, four types of warning are generated:
 - (i) Pre-alert (25 km),

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- (ii) Alert (8 km),
- (iii) Maximum alert (5 km) and
- (iv) Normal situation (after 10 minutes without any lightning within those areas).
- 3.2.12.3.1 Example of Lightening warning in English Plain Language.

WWEN HUEN 220257

UGANDA NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY LIGHTNING WARNING AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT AREA MARCH 22, 02:57 UTC. BEGINNING OF THE PRE-ALERT STATE (CIRCLE WITH A 25 KM RADIUS)

WWEN HUEN 162134

UGANDA NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

LIGHTNING WARNING AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT AREA JANUARY 16, 2015. 21:34 UTC. BEGINNING OF THE STATE OF ALERT (CIRCLE WITH A RADIO OF 8 KM RADIUS)

3.2.13 Update of the aerodrome warnings

3.2.13.3 An update of a warning is accomplished by cancelling it and issuing a new one, as long as it is the same phenomenon, and its period of validity has not yet expired.

3.2.13.4 Updates of surface wind warnings will be issued when a change of ± 10 KT is observed and/or forecasted, as long as the value continues to be greater than the given threshold.

3.2.13.5 Updates of warnings of accumulated snow on the ground will be issued when the quantity of snow changes ±5 cm. Updates of frost warnings will be issued when the changes of temperature is ±2°C, as long as it is lower than 0°C.

3.2.14 Cancellation

Aerodrome warnings shall be cancelled when the conditions that originated it no longer hold/exist.

PENDENO

DIRECTOR
SAFETY, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC REGULATION

DIRECTOR SAFETY, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC REGULATION

APPENDIX I

TEMPLATE FOR AERODROME WARNINGS

Key:

M = inclusion mandatory, part of every message;
 C = inclusion conditional, included whenever applicable.

Note: The explanations for the abbreviations can be found in Appendix II of this Advisory Circular

Element	Detailed content	Templates	Examples
Location indicator of the aerodrome (M)	Location indicator of the aerodrome	nnnn	HUEC
Identification of the type of message (M)	Type of message and sequence number	AD WRNG [n]n	AD WRNG 2
Validity period (M)	Day and time of validity period in UTC	VALID nnnnnn/nnnnnn	VALID 211230/211530
IF THE AERODROME WAF	RNING IS TO BE CANCELLE	ED, SEE DETAILS AT THE END OF	THE TEMPLATE.
Phenomenon (M)	Description of phenomenon causing the issuance of the aerodrome warning	TS nnnnnnnnn or [HVY] TS or GR or [HVY] RA [nnMM] or [HVY] TSRA or [HVY] HAIL or [HVY] DS or SA or FU or SFC WSPD nn[n]MPS MAX nn[n] (SFC WSPD nn[n]KT MAX nn[n]) or SFC WIND nnn/nn[n]MPS MAX nn[n] (SFC WIND nnn/nn[n]KT MAX nn[n]) or TS or RA or TSRA or VA[DEPO] or TOX CHEM or Free text up to 32 characters ⁵	TS HVY RA 50MM SFC WSPD 20MPS MAX 30 VA
Observed or forecast obenomenon (M)	Indication whether the information is observed and expected to continue, or forecast	OBS [AT nnnnZ] <i>or</i> FCST	OBS AT 1200Z OBS
Changes in intensity (C)		INTSF or WKN or NC	WKN
	-		,
	Cancellation of aerodrome warning referring to its identification	CNL AD WRNG [n]n nnnnnn/nnnnnn	CNL AD WRNG 2 211230/211530

Cancellation of aerodrome warning	Cancellation of aerodrome warning referring to its identification	CNL AD WRNG [n]n nnnnnn/nnnnn	CNL AD WRNG 2 211230/211530
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APPENDIX II

COMMONLY USED ICAO ABBREVIATIONS IN METEOROLOGICAL MESSAGES

(Extract from the Procedures for Air Navigation Services - ICAO Abbreviations and Codes (PANS-ABC, Doc 8400))

A

AAA (or AAB, AAC ... etc., in sequence) Amended meteorological message (message type

designator)

ABV Above

ADS-C: Automatic dependent surveillance — contract AFTN: Aeronautical fixed telecommunication network

AIREP† Air-report

AIRMET† Information concerning en-route weather phenomena which may affect the safety of

low-level aircraft operations

ALT Altitude

AMD Amend or amended (used to indicate amended meteorological message; message type

designator)

APCH Approach

ASHTAM A special series NOTAM notifying, by means of a specific format, changes in activity

of a volcano, a volcanic eruption and/or volcanic ash cloud that is of significance to

aircraft operations

AT... At (followed by time at which weather change is forecast to occur)

ATS Air traffic services

B

BCFG Fog patches
BECMG Becoming
BKN Broken

BL ... Blowing (followed by DU = dust, SA = sand or SN = snow)

BLW Below ...
BR Mist
BTN Between

BUFR Binary universal form for the representation of meteorological data

C

... C Centre (preceded by runway designation number to identify a parallel runway)

C Degrees Celsius (Centigrade)

CALM Calm

CAT Clear air turbulence

CAVOK† (to be pronounced "KAV-OH-KAY") Visibility, cloud and present weather better than

prescribed values or conditions

CB: (to be pronounced "CEE BEE") Cumulonimbus

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designator) CLD Cloud CLIMB-OUT Climb-out area Correct or corrected (used to indicate corrected meteorological message; COR message type designator) CPDLC: Controller-pilot data link communications CTA Control area CU Cumulus D D Downward (tendency in RVR during previous 10 minutes) DEG Degrees **DEPO** Deposition DIF Diffuse DP Dew point temperature DR ... Low drifting (followed by DU = dust, $SA = sand \ or \ SN = snow$) DS Duststorm DU Dust D-VOLMET Data link VOLMET DZ Drizzle E E East or eastern longitude Embedded in a layer (to indicate cumulonimbus embedded in layers of other clouds) **EMBD END** Stop-end (related to RVR) EON Equatorial latitudes northern hemisphere EQS Equatorial latitudes southern hemisphere **EXER** Exercises or exercising or to exercise **FBL** Light (used to indicate the intensity of weather phenomena, interference or static reports, e.g. FBLRA = light rain) FC Funnel cloud (tornado or water spout) **FCST** Forecast **FEW** Few FG Fog FIR: Flight information region Flight level FL FLUC Fluctuating or fluctuation or fluctuated From (followed by time weather change is forecast to begin) FM ... FRONT† Front (relating to weather) FT Feet (dimensional unit) FU Smoke FZ Freezing **FZDZ** Freezing drizzle

(or CCB, CCC ... etc., in sequence) Corrected meteorological message (message type

CCA

FZFG Freezing fog **FZRA** Freezing rain G Variations from the mean wind speed (gusts) (followed by figures in METAR/SPECI and TAF) $G \dots$ **GAIN** Airspeed or headwind gain **GAMET** Area forecast for low-level flights GR **GRIB** Processed meteorological data in the form of grid point values expressed in binary form (meteorological code) GS Small hail and/or snow pellets H High pressure area or the centre of high pressure HNH High latitudes northern hemisphere **HPA** Hectopascal HR Hours High latitudes southern hemisphere HSH HURCN Hurricane HVY Heavy (used to indicate the intensity of weather phenomena, e.g. HVY RA = heavy rain) HZ Haze **IAVW** International airways volcano watch ICE Icing INC In cloud **INTSF** Intensify or intensifying Isolated **ISOL** K KM Kilometres **KMH** Kilometres per hour Knots KT L Low pressure area or the centre of low pressure L LAT Latitude Local or locally or location or located LCA Line (used in SIGMET) LINE LONG Longitude LOSS Airspeed or headwind loss Limited LTD Level LVL LYR Layer or layered M

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... M Metres (preceded by figures)

M ... Minimum value of runway visual range (followed by figures in METAR/SPECI)

MAX Maximum MBST Microburst

MET† Meteorological or meteorology

METAR† Aerodrome routine meteorological report (in meteorological code)

MET REPORT Local routine meteorological report (in abbreviated plain language)

MID Mid-point (related to RVR)

MIFG Shallow fog

MNH Middle latitudes northern hemisphere

MNM Minimum

MOD Moderate (used to indicate the intensity of weather phenomena, interference or static

reports, e.g. MODRA = moderate rain)

MOV Move or moving or movement

MS Minus

MSH Middle latitudes southern hemisphere

MSL Mean Sea level
MT Mountain

MTW Mountain waves

MWO Meteorological watch office

N

No distinct tendency (in RVR during previous 10 minutes)

N North *or* northern latitude

NC No change NE North-east

NIL*† None *or* I have nothing to send to you

NM Nautical miles

NOSIG† No significant change (used in trend-type landing forecasts)

NOTAM† A 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

NSC Nil significant cloud NSW Nil significant weather

NW North-west

NXT Next

0

OBS Observe or observed or observation OBSC Obscure or obscured or obscuring

OCNL Occasional or occasionally

OPMET† Operational meteorological (information)

OVC Overcast

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P

P ... Maximum value of wind speed or runway visual range (followed by figures in METAR/SPECI and TAF) PL Ice pellets PO Dust/sand whirls (dust devils) PRFG Aerodrome partially covered by fog PROB† Probability PS Plus PSN Position PSYS Pressure system(s) O Atmospheric pressure at aerodrome elevation (or at runway threshold) QFE: QNH: Altimeter sub-scale setting to obtain elevation when on the ground R ... Runway (followed by figures in METAR/SPECI) RA Rain RAG Ragged RE Recent (used to qualify weather phenomena, e.g. RERA = recent rain) (to be pronounced "AR-NAV") Area navigation RNAV† ROBEX† Regional OPMET bulletin exchange (scheme) **RPLC** Replace or replaced RRA (or RRB, RRC ... etc., in sequence) Delayed meteorological message (message type designator) RTD Delayed (used to indicate delayed meteorological message; message type designator) RVR: Runway visual range RWY Runway S S South or southern latitude S ... State of the sea (followed by figures in METAR/SPECI) SA Sand SCT Scattered SE South-east SEA Sea (used in connection with sea-surface temperature and state of the sea) Section SECN SEV Severe (used e.g. to qualify icing and turbulence reports) SEC Surface SG Snow grains SH ... Shower (followed by RA = rain, SN = snow, PL = ice pellets, GR = hail, GS = small hail and/or snow pellets or combinations thereof, e.g. SHRASN = showers of rain and snow) SIG Significant

Snow

SIGMET†

SNOCLO

SN

which may affect the safety of aircraft operations

Aerodrome closed due to snow (used in METAR/SPECI)

Information concerning en-route weather and other phenomena in the atmosphere

SPECI† Aerodrome special meteorological report (in meteorological code) SPECIAL† Local special meteorological report (in abbreviated plain language) SQ Squall SQL Squall line SS Sandstorm STNR Stationary SW South-west SWX Space weather **SWXC** Space weather centre T T **Temperature** TAF† Aerodrome forecast (in meteorological code) TC Tropical cyclone **TCAC** Tropical cyclone advisory centre TCU Towering cumulus TDO Tornado TEMPO† Temporary *or* temporarily Till (followed by time by which weather change is forecast to end) TL ... TN ... Minimum temperature (followed by figures in TAF) TO To ... (place) TOP† Cloud top TREND† Trend forecast TS Thunderstorm (in aerodrome reports and forecasts, TS used alone means thunder heard but no precipitation at the aerodrome) TS ... Thunderstorm (followed by RA = RAIN, SN = snow, PL = ice pellets, GR = hail, $GS = label{eq:snow}$ small hail and/or snow pellets or combinations thereof, e.g. TSRASN = thunderstorm with rain and snow) TURB Turbulence TX ... Maximum temperature (followed by figures in TAF) U U Upward (tendency in RVR during previous 10 minutes) UIR: Upper flight information region UTC: Coordinated Universal Time ...V... Variations from the mean wind direction (preceded and followed by figures in METAR/SPECI, e.g. 350V070) VA Volcanic ash Volcanic ash advisory centre VAAC VC Vicinity of the aerodrome (followed by FG = fog, $FC = funnel\ cloud$, SH = shower, PO = dust/sand whirls, BLDU = blowing dust, BLSA = blowing sand, BLSN = blowing snow, DS = duststorm, SS = sandstorm, TS = thunderstorm or VA = volcanic ash, e.g. VCFG = vicinity fog)

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Vertical

VHF‡ Very high frequency [30 MHz to 300 MHz]

VIS Visibility

VOLMET† Meteorological information for aircraft in flight

VRB Variable

VV... Vertical visibility (followed by figures in METAR/SPECI and TAF)

W

W West or western longitude

W... Sea-surface temperature (followed by figures in METAR/SPECI)

WAFC World area forecast centre WAFS World area forecast system

WI Within WID Wide WIND Wind

WKN Weaken or weakening

WRNG Warning
WS Wind shear
WSPD Wind speed
WX Weather

Z

Z Coordinated Universal Time (in meteorological messages)

NOTE

† When radiotelephony is used, the abbreviations and terms are transmitted as spoken words.

When radiotelephony is used, the abbreviations and terms are transmitted using the individual letters in non-phonetic form.

* Signal is also available for use in communicating with stations of the maritime mobile service.

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