

Weather Report Information

Product Name	Type	Contents	Validity
Aviation Routine Weather Report (METAR)	Report	Winds, visibility, sky conditions, weather, temperature, dewpoint, altimeter setting, and other pertinent information observed at the airport or reporting station.	Issued every 60 minutes and updated when conditions of special note occur
Pilot Report (PIREP)	Report	Conditions observed by a pilot while in-flight. May contain any relevant or important weather phenomena.	Issued when a pilot determines that the information would assist other pilots in flight planning and decision making.
Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF)	Forecast	Forecast winds, visibility, sky condition, and weather for a 5-mile radius around the designated airport or reporting location.	TAFs are issued every 6 hours and each report is valid for 24 hours or until superseded by the next issuance.
Area Forecast (FA)	Forecast	Area forecasts include major weather patterns, cloud bases and tops, and weather phenomena for large, multi-state regions.	Area forecasts are issued every 8 hours at 0000 UTC, 0800 UTC, and 1600 UTC. The forecast is valid for 12 hours and the outlook valid for an additional 6, or until superseded by the next issuance.
Airmen's Meteorological Information (AIRMET)	Advisory Forecast	Issued for IFR conditions, mountain obscuration, moderate turbulence, sustained surface winds of 30 knots or greater, non-convective low-level wind shear, and moderate icing.	Issued every 6 hours and valid for 6 hours. Updates and corrections are issued as necessary.
Significant Meteorological Information (SIGMET)	Advisory Forecast	Issued for non-convective occurrences of severe icing, severe or extreme turbulence, dust or sand storms lowering visibility to less than 3 miles, and/or volcanic ash. Additional occurrences are reported in Hawaii and Alaska.	Unscheduled and valid for 4 hours
Convective SIGMET	Advisory Forecast	Issued for severe thunderstorms and may include surface winds of 50 knots or greater, hail $\frac{1}{8}$ inch or larger, tornados, embedded thunderstorms, heavy thunderstorms, severe turbulence, severe icing, and/or low-level windshear.	Unscheduled and valid for 4 hours

For more information, see the Aeronautical Information Manual, Chapter 7, Section 1.