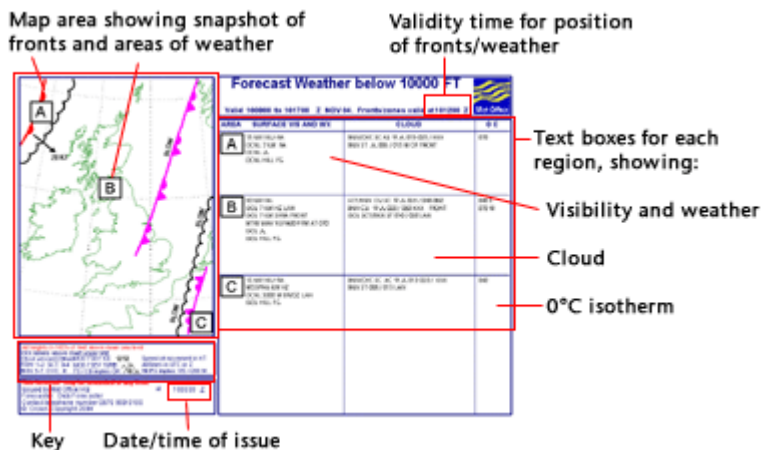


UK Low-Level Significant Weather Charts



Map area

The map area shows a snapshot of the fronts and areas of weather at a specific validity time (VT) shown at the top right of the chart. The 'top' of the chart is 10,000 ft.

Weather

The text boxes on the right show the weather for each area of the map and have been designed to follow the TAF code appearing in the same order; visibility and weather followed by cloud. The METAR weather codes are also used in this section to refer to specific forecast weather types (e.g. TS, +RA, FG, etc.)

Sub areas

On occasions there will be a need to include sub areas within a larger area of weather. A sub area to an area C would, for example, be named area C1. A sub area will include single element changes from the main area. Changes will be detailed either within brackets or as a separate line of text. Minor changes of one element of either weather or the extent, coverage or period of the change may be shown in brackets. More-general changes will be included as a separate line of text. Some examples are provided below.

AREA	SURFACE VIS AND WX	CLOUD	0 C
A	25 KM NIL ISOL 7 KM HZ SEA COT (AND LAN TL 08 Z) ISOL (OCNL FM 10 Z) 5000 M +SHRA/+TSRA LAN A2 ISOL 200 M FG A1 (AND LAN ELSEWHERE TL 07 Z) ISOL HILL FG	ISOL (OCNL FM 10 Z) CB 050-080 / XXX A2 FEW/SCT CU SC A 030 / 050-060 N OF 55 N ISOL BKN ST 000 / 005 A1 (AND LAN ELSEWHERE TL 07 Z)	XXX BUT 080 FAR NE
B	15 KM NIL WDPSR 7 KM HZ OCNL (WDSPR B1) 2000 M BR/DZ ISOL (OCNL B1) 200 M FG ISOL HILL FG	AREAS BKN/OVC SC 020 / 030-035 MAINLY B1 OCNL (WDSPR B1) BKN (OVC B1) ST SC 003-007 / 015-020 (BASE 000 FG)	XXX
AREA	SURFACE VIS AND WX	CLOUD	0 C
A	15 KM NIL/-RA ISOL (OCNL A1) 7 KM RA ISOL 2000 M RADZ/(+RA A1) ISOL 200 M FG OCNL A SW (ISOL A A1 S)	BKN/OVC SC AC A 015-025 / 060-080 (XXX A1) AREAS BKN ST 001-005 / 015 (BASE 000 FG)	XXX

Cloud

Cloud amount is: FEW, SCT, BKN or OVC, followed by the cloud type (e.g. ST, CU, CB, SC, AC). An additional two symbols may then appear to indicate whether MOD/SEV ICE or TURB is expected in this cloud. A key to the symbols is included in the lower left corner of the chart. Cloud heights then appear in hundreds of feet in the form 020/050 (in this case the cloud base is 2,000 ft and the top 5,000 ft AMSL). If a cloud top is expected to extend above 10,000 ft then XXX will appear. For example, BKN/OVC STSC **A** **A** 008/060 indicates 5-8 oktas of stratus and stratocumulus base 800 ft top 6,000 ft AMSL with moderate turbulence and moderate icing expected within.

Key

- MOD ICE Moderate icing
- SEV ICE Severe icing
- MOD TURB Moderate turbulence

Mountain wave

Wherever necessary, mountain wave forecasts will appear in the 'visibility and weather' box as MTW followed by a vertical speed VSP and height(s) above mean sea level, e.g. 'MTW MAX VSP 700 FPM AT 080'. Mountain wave maximum vertical speed 700 ft per minute at 8,000 ft with moderate/severe turbulence expected.

Definitions

The definitions used in Low Level Significant Weather charts relating to the extent of weather are adopted in the UK by the Aviation Met. Authority in the CAA, and used by the Met Office. These are:

Widespread – Implies conditions affecting many places, which will be difficult to avoid (greater than 50% of area affected) (used for non-convective and convective types).

Frequent – Used if within a particular area there is little separation between phenomena, and the spatial coverage is greater than 50% of the area forecast to be affected by that phenomenon (used for convective types only). These features will be difficult to avoid.

Occasional – Used if an area consists of well separated features which are forecast to affect an area with a maximum spatial coverage of between 25% and 50% of the area concerned. These features can be avoided by users.

Isolated – Used if an area consists of individual features which are forecast to affect an area with a maximum spatial coverage of between less than 25% of the area concerned. these features can be easily avoided.