

Explanation of detail in F215, valid 230800 to 231700Z, 23 April 2007.

1. Basic principles

The basic principle of the F215 is to give as detailed a forecast as possible in the space available. This gives rise to the use of abbreviations. It is appreciated that there are many abbreviations, and there are also many qualifications.

Whilst all endeavours are made to make the forecast clear, when forecasting for such a large area, and covering a period of 9 hours, some recourse to bracketed sections is also necessary.

To assist in determining the meaning of the F215, the following may be helpful.

The items are listed in a specific order. In the weather section, the best visibility is given first. Any mountain wave activity would come towards the bottom, followed by turbulence information, and finally hill fog.

Cloud information is given such that cloud with the highest base is listed at the top.

All of the above is fine, until qualification is needed. As an example, one might write:

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Area E
Weather:
30 KM NIL
4000 M RADZ
ISOL 3000 M +RA
OCNL 3000 M +RA E1
ISOL 2500 M RADZ E1
HILL FG
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The references to E1 are on separate lines

It would however, likely be written:

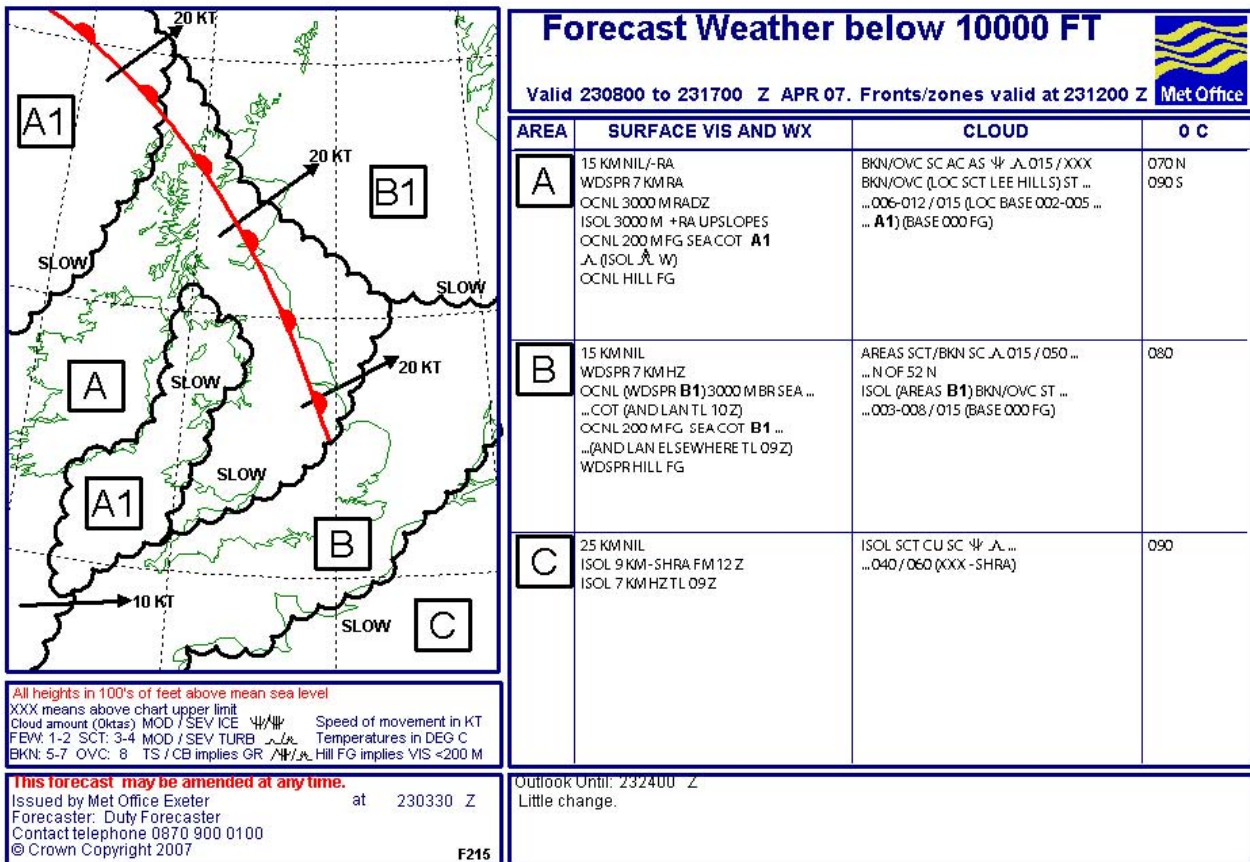
```
Area E
Weather:
30 KM NIL
4000 M (ISOL 2500 M E1) RADZ
ISOL (OCNL E1) 3000 M +RA
HILL FG
```

In this case, bracketed qualifications are used to save space.

The use of ellipses (...) are to demonstrate a continuation of a met condition onto the following line.

In addition, it is good practice to consult the F215 in combination with F214, Airmets, synoptic charts and relevant TAFs and METARs in order to obtain the fullest picture of the existing and predicted weather.

2. Written decode for areas A and B:



In order to understand more fully the F215, it is useful to consider a worked example. The F215 above was issued on 23 April 2007, and valid between 0800 and 1700 UTC. A decode of this chart is given below in plain language:

Area A

Weather.

Where there is no weather, or in slight rain, visibility will be 15 KM, and this applies to A, and its sub area A1

There will be widespread 7 KM in moderate rain, and this applies to A and its sub area A1

There will be occasional 3000 M in moderate rain and drizzle, and this applies to A, and its sub area A1

There will be isolated 3000 M in heavy rain, and whilst this applies to both area A and its sub area A1, it will only be on upslopes (windward facing). Although sub area A1 extends only slightly inland, it would be possible for heavy rain to be generated on some of the high ground/cliffs close to coasts.

There will be occasional 200 M in fog over the sea and along coasts, but only in sub area A1, not in areas marked A.

There will be moderate turbulence generated by low level winds, and in isolation there will be severe turbulence generated by low level winds. Strictly, this applies to both area A and its sub area A1. The defining qualification for the severe turbulence in this instance is 'W' which means in the west of the combined area bounded by A and A1. In this instance there is no value of longitude to make a reference (i.e. W of 002 W). For instance, if we take W of the area to mean west of 005 W, then both area A and sub area A1 would have the potential for isolated severe turbulence. If we took W of the area to mean west of 009 W, then only area A, and not its sub area A1, would have



the potential to be affected. That noted, since the sub-area A1 is largely over the sea, the all other things being equal meteorologically we would expect less turbulence over the sea. It would help to cross reference with the F214 to determine where the strongest low level winds might occur. Use of 'W of 5 N' for instance in the text of the weather section of area A would have added value to the forecast, but users must bear in mind that at different times within the validity period the precise area of strong winds would of course vary. Any such reference to latitude or longitude under such circumstances should be taken as being valid at the same time as the fronts and boundaries snapshot.

There will be occasional hill fog, and this applies to area A, and its sub area A1. Visibility in hill fog will be less than 200 M – as per legend.

Cloud:

There will be broken or overcast cloud, of type stratocumulus, altocumulus and altostratus with base 1500 FT AMSL to TOP in excess of 10000 FT AMSL. Moderate icing (above the level of the 0 C isotherm) should be expected, and moderate turbulence should be expected in this cloud. The implication is that these would be fairly solid layers, with SC merging into AC and AS with few if any clear layers between. This applies to area A and Area A1.

There will be broken or overcast ST base 600 FT to 1200 FT with top at 1500 FT. Locally to the lee of hills the cloud will break to scattered (due to shelter) with a base still in the range 600 FT to 1200 FT, and top 1500 FT. This will apply to A and its sub area A1, but in A1 the cloud base would locally be in the range 200 FT to 500 FT. Where there is fog, the base will be 0 FT. This could only apply to A1 since fog is only forecast over the sea coastal areas of A1 (cross reference with weather).

Area B

Weather

Where there is no weather, visibility will be 15 KM. This applies to area B, and its sub area B1.

There will be widespread 7 KM in haze. This applies to area B, and its sub area B1.

There will be occasional 3000 M in Area B, but in sub area B1 such visibility would be widespread. Such visibility will persist throughout over the sea and along coasts, but will not be applicable overland after 1000 UTC.

There will be occasional 200 M in fog over the sea and coastal areas of B1 throughout, and overland elsewhere (i.e. area B) until 0900 UTC, i.e. the sea areas of B (not B1) would be free from fog.

There will be widespread hill fog (visibility less than 200 M, as per legend). This will apply to area B and its sub area B1.

Cloud:

There will be areas of SCT or BKN stratocumulus with base 1500 FT and top 5000 FT, with moderate turbulence, north of 52 North.

There will be isolated cloud in B, but larger areas in sub area B1, with base 300 FT to 800 FT and top 1500 FT. Where there is fog, the base will be 0 FT – this would apply to sub area B1 throughout, but not to area B after 0900 Z overland (cross reference with weather section), and not over the sea areas of area B at anytime.

Area C

Weather

Where there is no weather, the visibility will be 25 KM.

There is an isolated chance of a light rain shower until 1200 UTC. During any light showers, expect the visibility to reduce to 9 KM.



Until 0900 UTC, there is an isolated chance of haze, reducing the visibility to 7 KM.

Cloud

There will be isolated areas of SCT cumulus or stratocumulus, with a base of 4000 FT and tops 6000 FT. During any showery activity, the tops are expected to be in excess of 10000 FT. Moderate icing and turbulence should be expected in this cloud.