

What is **Meteorological Information**?

METARs, SIGMETs, TAFs, and ARFORs are the terms that come to mind. They're only the tip of the iceberg, though.

Meteorological Information means any meteorological report, analysis, or forecast in support of aviation, and any other statement in support of aviation relating to existing or expected meteorological conditions, according to Civil Aviation Rules, Part 1 *Definitions*.

This means that Meteorological Information includes the following weather products:

AD QNH (Aerodrome maximum and minimum QNH values)
AIREP and AIREP Special (Aircraft Reports)
ARFOR (Area Forecast)
AV SIT (Aviation Situation Statement)
ATIS (Aerodrome Terminal Information Service)
AWS (Automatic Weather Station Report)
BWR (Basic Weather Report)
High (Hi) Level SIGWX (Significant Weather, FL250-FL630)
Medium or Mid-Level SIGWX (Significant Weather, FL100 to FL250)
METAR and SPECI (Meteorological Aerodrome Report and Special Aerodrome Report)
METAR AUTO (Aerodrome reports provided from Automatic Weather Stations in the METAR code)
PIREP (Pilot Report)
RAPIC (Weather Radar Imagery)
ROFOR (Route Forecast)

SATPIX (Weather Satellite Picture)
SIGMET (Warning of weather phenomena hazardous to aviation)
Surface weather charts (MSL ANAL and MSL PROG – Mean Sea Level Analysis and Mean Sea Level Prognosis)
TAF (Terminal Aerodrome Forecast) and AMD TAF (Amended TAF)
Takeoff and Landing Reports
TREND (A TREND forecast consists of an aviation weather report (METAR or SPECI) to which is appended a concise statement of any significant changes to those described in the report that are expected to occur during the following two hours.)
VAA (Volcanic Ash Advisory)
Wind and Temperature forecast charts (winds and temperatures aloft)
VOLMET (Routine broadcasts of selected Operational Meteorological (OPMET) information)

Meteorological information is an essential tool for all pilots. As part of their preflight action (rule 91.217 *Preflight Action*), pilots are required to obtain and become familiar with all information concerning that flight – this includes meteorological information.

The term Meteorological Information is also referred to in other Parts of the Civil Aviation Rules, such as Part 121 *Air Operations – Large Aeroplanes*, Part 125 *Air Operations – Medium Aeroplanes* and Part 135 *Air Operations – Helicopters and Small Aeroplanes*. Go to the CAA web site, www.caa.govt.nz, “Rules” to view the complete rules.

The CAA web site has a comprehensive Meteorology section – the link is on the home page. It includes a specific page on what meteorological information pilots should use, and during what phases of flight, see “Meteorology – Weather Information for Your Flight”.



The CAA also has a number of weather-related products, such as the VFR Met Minima card, VFR Met booklet, Weather Card, Met Info poster and the New Zealand Cloud Types poster. Email: info@caa.govt.nz for a free copy. ■