

4678

w'w' *Significant present and forecast weather*

QUALIFIER		WEATHER PHENOMENA			
INTENSITY OR PROXIMITY	DESCRIPTOR	PRECIPITATION	OBSCURATION	OTHER	
1	2	3	4	5	
– Light	MI Shallow	DZ Drizzle	BR Mist	PO Dust/sand whirls (dust devils)	
	BC Patches	RA Rain	FG Fog		
	PR Partial (covering part of the aerodrome)	SN Snow	FU Smoke	SQ Squalls	
+ Heavy (well developed in the case of dust/sand whirls (dust devils) and funnel clouds)	DR Low drifting	SG Snow grains	VA Volcanic ash	FC Funnel cloud(s) (tornado or waterspout)	
		PL Ice pellets	DU Widespread dust		
	BL Blowing	GR Hail	SA Sand	SS Sandstorm	
VC In the vicinity	SH Shower(s)	GS Small hail and/or snow pellets	HZ Haze	DS Duststorm	
	TS Thunderstorm				
	FZ Freezing (supercooled)	UP Unknown precipitation			

The w'w' groups shall be constructed by considering columns 1 to 5 in the table above in sequence, that is, intensity, followed by description, followed by weather phenomena. An example could be: +SHRA (heavy shower(s) of rain).

Notes:

- (1) Entries in this code table are based on the descriptions of hydrometeors and lithometeors found in the *International Cloud Atlas* (WMO-No 407), Volume I.
- (2) Regulation 15.8 shall apply.
- (3) More than one form of precipitation shall be combined, the dominant type of precipitation being reported first, for example +SNRA.
- (4) More than one phenomenon other than a precipitation combination noted shall be reported in separate w'w' groups in the order of the columns, for example –DZ FG.
- (5) Intensity shall be indicated only with precipitation, precipitation associated with showers and/or thunderstorms, duststorm or sandstorm, and funnel clouds.
- (6) Not more than one descriptor shall be included in a w'w' group, for example –FZDZ.
- (7) The descriptors MI, BC and PR shall be used only in combination with the letter abbreviation FG, for example MIFG.
- (8) The descriptor DR (low drifting) shall be used for dust, sand or snow raised by the wind to less than two metres above the ground. BL (blowing) shall be used to indicate dust, sand or snow raised by the wind to a height of two metres or more above the ground. The descriptors DR and BL shall be used only in combination with the letter abbreviations DU, SA and SN, for example BLSN.
- (9) When blowing snow is observed with snow falling from cloud, both phenomena are reported, e.g. SN BLSN. When due to blowing snow the observer cannot determine whether or not snow is also falling from cloud, then only BLSN shall be reported.

CODE TABLES

(Code table 4678 – continued)

- (10) The descriptor SH shall be used only in combination with one or more of the letter abbreviations RA, SN, GS, GR and UP to indicate precipitation of the shower type at the time of observation, for example SHSN.
- (11) The descriptor TS, if not used on its own, shall be used only in combination with one or more of the letter abbreviations RA, SN, GS, GR and UP to indicate thunderstorm with precipitation at the aerodrome, for example TSSNGS.
- (12) The descriptor FZ shall be used only in combination with the letter abbreviations FG, DZ, RA and UP for example FZRA.
- (13) The proximity qualifier VC shall be used only in combination with the letter abbreviations TS, DS, SS, FG, FC, SH, PO, BLDU, BLSA, BLSN and VA.
- (14) UP is to be used only in reports from fully automated stations unable to distinguish precipitation type.

4680

w_aw_a *Present weather reported from an automatic weather station*

Code
figure

00	No significant weather observed
01	Clouds generally dissolving or becoming less developed during the past hour
02	State of sky on the whole unchanged during the past hour
03	Clouds generally forming or developing during the past hour
04	Haze or smoke, or dust in suspension in the air, visibility equal to, or greater than, 1 km
05	Haze or smoke, or dust in suspension in the air, visibility less than 1 km
06–09	Reserved
10	Mist
11	Diamond dust
12	Distant lightning
13–17	Reserved
18	Squalls
19	Reserved

Code figures 20–26 are used to report precipitation, fog (or ice fog) or thunderstorm at the station during the preceding hour but not at the time of observation.

20	Fog
21	PRECIPITATION
22	Drizzle (not freezing) or snow grains
23	Rain (not freezing)
24	Snow
25	Freezing drizzle or freezing rain
26	Thunderstorm (with or without precipitation)
27	BLOWING OR DRIFTING SNOW OR SAND
28	Blowing or drifting snow or sand, visibility equal to, or greater than, 1 km
29	Blowing or drifting snow or sand, visibility less than 1 km
30	FOG
31	Fog or ice fog in patches
32	Fog or ice fog, has become thinner during the past hour
33	Fog or ice fog, no appreciable change during the past hour
34	Fog or ice fog, has begun or become thicker during the past hour
35	Fog, depositing rime
36–39	Reserved