

Information about change in Sigmet / Airmet

Background

Regulatory requirements in (EU) 2017/373 AMC1 MET.TR.250 (c) stipulate that the sequence number of a SIGMET shall consist of a letter indicating the type of weather phenomenon for which it is notified:

AMC1 MET.TR.250(c) SIGMET

ED Decision 2020/008/R

SEQUENCE NUMBER

- (a) The three-character sequence number should be constructed using a single letter identifying the phenomenon, followed by two numeric characters corresponding to the number of SIGMET issued for that phenomenon for the specified flight information region since 00.01 UTC on the day concerned.
- (b) The letters to be used as the first character for the SIGMET sequence number to indicate the specified en-route weather phenomena for which the SIGMET has been issued should be:

SIGMET Type	Specified en-route phenomena	Letter to be used in sequence number for specified en-route phenomena
WC	Tropical cyclone	C
	<i>For WC exchange test purposes</i>	X
WV	Volcanic ash	A
	<i>For WV exchange test purposes</i>	Y
WS	Thunderstorm	T
	Turbulence	U
	Icing	I
	Freezing rain	F
	Mountain wave	M
	Dust storm	D
	Sandstorm	S
	Radioactive cloud	R
<i>For WS exchange test purposes</i>	Z	

New solution

Earlier practice, where the SIGMET numbering (first letter) refers to the geographical area associated with the AORs (A = ENOS, B = ENSV, C = former ENTR, D = ENBD and E = ENOB), must be changed to a letter referring to the weather phenomenon according to the table above.

Example of new format (Mountain wave):

WSNO31 ENMI 301915 ENOR SIGMET **M01** VALID 302000/310000 ENMI-ENOR **POLARIS FIR** SEV MTW FCST WI N5910 E00730 - N5910 E00550 - N6200 E00545 - N6200 E00730 - N5910 E00730 SFC / FL080 STNR NC =

Example of new format (Turbulence):

WSN031 ENMI 220630 ENOR SIGMET U02 VALID 220700/220900 ENMI-ENOR POLARIS
FIR SEV TURB FCST WI 6200 E00900 - N6200 E01220 - N6300 E01215 - N6200 E00900
SFC / FL080 STNR WKN =

With the introduction of the letter for weather phenomena, MET also implements the name change from ENOR Norway FIR to ENOR Polaris FIR as shown in the examples above. ENOB Bodo Oceanic FIR is used as before.

Simultaneously with the change in the Sigmet format, there will be a corresponding change in the Airmet format. Airmet in Norway only applies to MOD ICE, and the letter I will be used.

Example of a new format (Iceing Svalbard):

WANO36 ENMI 030639 ENOB AIRMET I01 VALID 030700/031100 ENMI-ENOB BODO
OCEANIC FIR MOD ICE FCST WI N7850 E01620 - N7730 E02610 - N7630 E01530 -
N7850 E01620 SFC / FL130 STNR NC =

Consequence for Sigmet / Airmet

Only the heading in Sigmet / Airmet is changed. The content of Sigmet / Airmet remains unchanged. However, since ENOR Polaris FIR will no longer have a division according to the AORs, a Sigmet for example for thunder that extends over Langfjella from Haugesund to Elverum will not be divided into two messages (ENSV SIGMET B01 and ENOS SIGMET A01) but will be merged into one message (ENOR SIGMET T01).

For ENOB BODO OCEANIC FIR, the change is minimal. The letter E will no longer be used, but the messages will be given a letter according to the weather phenomenon, ref the table above.

How will users notice this:

Sigmet/Airmet will no longer be numbered by geographical area, but by type of weather phenomenon:

- An ENOR SIGMET U01 for turbulence in the northern part of the country could be followed by an ENOR SIGMET U02 for turbulence in the southern part before a renewal of Sigmet in the north with ENOR SIGMET U03.
- An ENOR SIGMET T01 for thunder in one area could be followed by an ENOR SIGMET U01 for turbulence over approximately the same area.

Graphical presentation of Sigmet/Airmet under “Norwegian weather” on ippc.no is recommended to give an easy overview of the affected areas.