The change affects the date/time groups in the TAFs. The valid time of a TAF becomes ddhh/ddhh from the present ddhhhh. TEMPOs and PROBS will also change, hhhh in both groups' changes to ddhh/ddhh. FROM groups change from hhmm to ddhhmm.

dd is the date of the month ie 17 or 17th. hh is the hour ie 22 or 2200GMT mm is minutes 15 or 15 minutes after the hour

Example: The present form (below)

KABC 131128Z 131212 14005KT P6SM SCT025 OVC040 TEMPO 1216 OVC025 FM1600 13015G23KT P6SM OVC015 FM2100 13015G22KT P6SM OVC008 TEMPO 2101 1SM -SN FM0100 09015KT 3SM BR OVC006 TEMPO 0105 2SM -SN BLSN FM0500 01015KT 5SM BR OVC006= Becomes (below)

KABC 131128Z 1312/1418 14005KT P6SM SCT025 OVC040 TEMPO 1312/1316 OVC025 FM131600 13015G23KT P6SM OVC015 FM132100 13015G22KT P6SM OVC008 TEMPO 1321/1401 1SM -SN FM140100 09015KT 3SM BR OVC006 TEMPO 1401/1405 2SM -SN BLSN FM141500 01015KT 5SM BR OVC006= This is a 30-hr TAF

KABC 131128Z 1312/1412 14005KT P6SM SCT025 OVC040 TEMPO 1312/1316 OVC025 FM131600 13015G23KT P6SM OVC015 FM132100 13015G22KT P6SM OVC008 TEMPO 1321/1401 1SM -SN FM140100 09015KT 3SM BR OVC006 TEMPO 1401/1405 2SM -SN BLSN FM140500 01015KT 5SM BR OVC006= This is a 24-hr TAF

Decoding the new TAF Format

On November 5, 2008, with the 1800 UTC issuance, the NWS will change the TAF format to conform to international standards outlined in ICAO Annex 3. The change includes the initiating of 30-hour TAFs for high-impact U.S. airports. To accommodate the extended TAF period, the format of all TAFs will change.

The change involves identifying the date associated with each time group. As shown in the example below, the previous TAF code is modified by adding the appropriate date before the forecast hour.

Example of 30-hour TAF:

TAF

KXXX 241732Z **2418/2524** 11006KT 4SM -SHRA BKN030

FM242300 22006KT 3SM -SHRA OVC030 **PROB30 2504/2506**

VRB20G35KT 1SM +TSRA BKN015CB FM 250600 250010KT 4SM -SHRA OVC050

TEMPO 2508/2511⁽⁴⁾ 2SM –SHRA OVC030=

(1) Valid Period Indicates the valid time of the 30-hour TAF where 2418 is

the 24 day at 1800 UTC and 2524 is the 25 day at 2400

UTC (or 0000 UTC on the 26")

(2) FM Change Group Indicates a significant and rapid change to a new set of

prevailing conditions in this case starting at 2300 UTC on

the 24th.

(3) PROB30 Indicates the probability of occurrence of a thunderstorm or

other precipitation event in this case occurring during the two-hour period between 0400 UTC and 0600 UTC on the

25th.

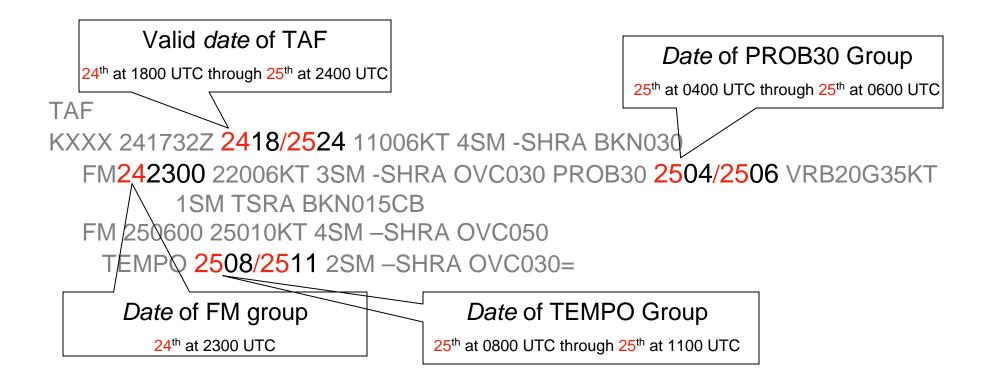
(4) TEMPO Change Group Indicates a temporary fluctuation in forecast conditions in

this case in the two-hour period between 0800 UTC and

0011 UTC on the 25^{th}

New TAF Format

Effective 1800 UTC 5 November 2008



The new TAF format will include a date with every time group. This will meet the new international standard. The NWS will produce 30-hour TAFs for these high-impact airports.