
APPENDIX B

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS¹

¹The abbreviations, acronyms, contractions, and symbols included in this appendix are defined in accordance with their usage in this Handbook.

\$	maintenance check indicator
–	light intensity
+	heavy intensity
/	indicator that visual range data follows; separator between temperature and dew point data.
ACC	altocumulus castellanus
ACFT MSHP	aircraft mishap
ACSL	altocumulus standing lenticular cloud
ALP	airport location point
AO1	automated station without precipitation discriminator
AO2	automated station with precipitation discriminator
APRNT	apparent
APRX	approximately
ATCT	airport traffic control tower
AUTO	automated report
B	began
BC	patches
BKN	broken
BL	blowing
BR	mist
C	center (with reference to runway designation)
CA	cloud-air lightning
CB	cumulonimbus cloud
CBMAM	cumulonimbus mammatus cloud
CC	cloud-cloud lightning
CCSL	cirrocumulus standing lenticular cloud
CG	cloud-ground lightning
CHI	cloud-height indicator
CHINO	sky condition at secondary location not available
CIG	ceiling
CLR	clear
CONS	continuous

COR	correction to a previously disseminated report
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOT	Department of Transportation
DR	low drifting
DS	duststorm
DSNT	distant
DU	widespread dust
DZ	drizzle
E	east, ended
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FC	funnel cloud
FEW	few clouds
FG	fog
FIBI	filed but impracticable to transmit
FIRST	first observation after a break in coverage at manual station
FMH-1	Federal Meteorological Handbook No.1, <i>Surface Weather Observations & Reports</i>
FMH-2	Federal Meteorological Handbook No.2, <i>Surface Synoptic Codes</i>
FROPA	frontal passage
FRQ	frequent
FT	feet
FU	smoke
FZ	freezing
FZRANO	freezing rain sensor not available
G	gust
GR	hail
GS	small hail and/or snow pellets
HZ	haze
IC	ice crystals, in-cloud lightning
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
KT	knots
L	left (with reference to runway designation)

LAST	last observation before a break in coverage at a manual station
LST	Local Standard Time
LTG	lightning
LWR	lower
M	minus, less than
METAR	aviation routine weather report
MI	shallow
MOV	moved/moving/movement
MT	mountains
N	north
N/A	not applicable
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
NE	northeast
NOS	National Ocean Service
NOSPECI	no SPECI reports are taken at the station
NW	northwest
NWS	National Weather Service
OCNL	occasional
OFCM	Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology
OVC	overcast
OHD	overhead
P	greater than
PL	ice pellets
PK WND	peak wind
PNO	precipitation amount not available
PO	dust/sand whirls (dust devils)
PR	partial
PRESFR	pressure falling rapidly
PRESRR	pressure rising rapidly
PWINO	precipitation identifier sensor not available
PY	spray
R	right (with reference to runway designation)

RA	rain
RVR	Runway Visual Range
RVRNO	RVR system not available
RWY	runway
S	south
SA	sand
SCSL	stratocumulus standing lenticular cloud
SCT	scattered
SE	southeast
SFC	surface
SG	snow grains
SH	shower(s)
SKC	sky clear
SLP	sea-level pressure
SLPNO	sea-level pressure not available
SM	statute miles
SN	snow
SNINCR	snow increasing rapidly
SPECI	an unscheduled report taken when certain criteria have been met
SQ	squalls
SS	sandstorm
SW	southwest
TCU	towering cumulus
TS	thunderstorm
TSNO	thunderstorm information not available
TWR	tower
UP	unknown precipitation
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
V	variable
VA	volcanic ash
VC	in the vicinity
VIS	visibility

VISNO	visibility at secondary location not available
VRB	variable
VV	vertical visibility
W	west
WG/SO	Working Group for Surface Observations
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WND	wind
WSHFT	wind shift
Z	zulu, i.e., Coordinated Universal Time