South African Weather Service
ISO 9001 Certified Organisation

Comparing the ICAO competency criteria with the METAR/SPECI code format

See how the order of the criteria follow the order of the METAR/SPECI format

Competency criteria description		Aviation code format
Continuously monitor the weather situation		
Analyse and explain the existing local weather conditions	Criteria 1.1 & 1.2	Observation 10 to 15 mins beforehand
Perform and record ROUTINE (METAR) and NON-ROUTINE (SPECI) messages		
Wind	Criteria 2.1	$dddffG_fm_fmKT$ $d_nd_nd_nVd_xd_xd_x$
Horizontal Visibility	Criteria 2.2	$VVVV$ $V_nV_nV_nV_nD_v$
RVR	Criteria 2.3	$RD_RD_R/V_xV_xV_xV_xi$ $RD_RD_R/V_xV_xV_xV_x \ v \ V_xV_xV_xV_xi$
Present weather	Criteria 2.4	$w^{I} w^{I}$
Clouds	Criteria 2.5	$N_SN_SN_Sh_Sh_Sh_S$
Vertical visibility	Criteria 2.6	$VVh_Sh_Sh_S$
Temperature and dew point	Criteria 2.7	TT T_dT_d
Pressure	Criteria 2.8	$QP_HP_HP_HP_H$
Supplementary information	Criteria 2.9	$REw^{I} w^{I}$ WS RWYDRDR WS ALL RWY
__Interpret__ automatic observed parameters to ensure observations remain representative of local conditions when variations result from differences between automatic sensors & manual observing techniques.	Criteria 2.10	Linked with parameters derived via electronic sensors
Ensure observations are prepared & issued in accordance with ICAO Annex 3, WMO-No.49, regional & national formats, codes & technical regulations on content, representativeness & timeliness.	Criteria 2.11	Coded in the correct format