

Online week 1

- Understanding the AMO competencies
- Understanding and application of the Aviation coding format and the SPECI criteria

As mentioned in the previous topic, there are four main competencies, with each main competency being subdivided into more detailed requirements.

For this first topic we will be looking at the actual competencies in more detail before addressing each of them individually.

Competency 1 deals with continuously monitoring the weather situation.

In order to address this competency point, the following are important aspects to address.

- Analyse the existing local weather conditions
- Describe the existing local weather conditions

If one is on shift and responsible for doing observations for the day, one needs to know what is happening outside at all times. This is especially important for cloud and present weather observations, but more so for the clouds.

A METAR is routine aviation meteorological report and is issued at routine times specific to the office at which one is working. The recognised time is hourly or half hourly (every hour or every half hour).

A SPECI is a non-routine special aviation meteorological report that is issued whenever specific criteria are met.

Looking back at yesterday's notes, did you see the link between METAR and SPECI and routine and non-routine?

This brings us to the discussion point for this session. What criteria is used in order to issue a SPECI instead of a METAR?