

VA SIGMET

When a volcanic eruption and/or ash is observed or reported in your FIR, or is forecast to enter your FIR – issue a VA SIGMET without delay.

This applies even when the ash has entered your FIR from another FIR (or is expected to).

When a volcanic ash cloud crosses multiple FIRs, VA SIGMETs must be issued for all of the FIRs.

STEP 1 Information Received

Source of Information	Type of Information	Issue a VA SIGMET
AIREP, Met Office, Volcano Observatory, ATS unit in the MWO's FIR	Report of an eruption with or without associated ash. Or an ash encounter without any reference to a specific volcano.	Issue immediately, even if no information is received from a VAAC.
VAAC, Volcano Observatory	Details of an eruption but with no information about any ash.	Issue immediately.
VAAC, Volcano Observatory	Details of an eruption and the extent of any ash cloud (observed and forecast).	Issue immediately.
VAAC	Advice that ash is expected to enter the MWO's FIR at a specified time in the future.	Issue immediately.

EXAMPLE: Volcanic Ash Advisory issued by Darwin VAAC with graphic for an eruption of Mount Soputan, Indonesia

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FVAUD1 ADRM 140547
VA ADVISORY
DTG: 20070614/0547Z
VAAC: DARWIN

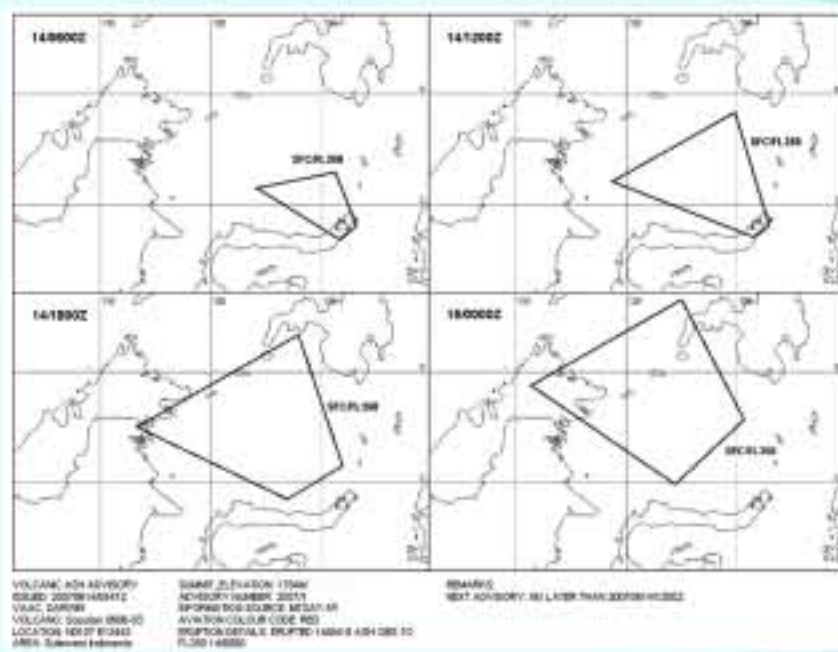
VOLCANO: SOPUTAN 0806-03
PSN: N0107 E12443
AREA: SULAWESI INDONESIA
SUMMIT ELEV: 1784M

ADVISORY NR: 2007/1
INFO SOURCE: MTSAT-1R
AVIATION COLOUR CODE: RED
ERUPTION DETAILS: ERUPTED 20070614/0415Z VA OBS TO FL350

OBS VA DTG: 14/0800Z
OBS VA CLD:
SFC/FL350 N0045 E12440 - N0115 E12515 - N0310 E12430 -
N0235 E12140 - N0045 E12440 MOV NE 15KT

FCST VA CLD +6HR: 14/1200Z
SFC/FL350 N0050 E12435 - N0115 E12510 - N0520 E12355 -
N0250 E11930 - N0050 E12435
FCST VA CLD +12HR: 14/1800Z
SFC/FL350 N0235 E12445 - N0720 E12310 - N0400 E11720 -
N0125 E12245 - N0235 E12445
FCST VA CLD +18HR: 15/0000Z
SFC/FL350 N0415 E12415 - N0835 E12200 - N0530 E11635 -
N0155 E12145 - N0415 E12415

RMK: GRAPHIC AT
http://www.bom.gov.au/info/vaac/advisories.shtml
NXT ADVISORY: NO LATER THAN 20070614/1200Z
    
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Key

WMO abbreviated heading, disseminating centre and transmission day/time

Name of VAAC or Issuing MWO

FIR

Sequence number and Validity period day/time

Name and location of volcano

Time volcanic ash cloud observed, its location and movement

Forecast position of ash cloud at end of validity period

The start of validity for a VA SIGMET should be the same as the issue time.

The validity of a VA SIGMET is normally 6 hours.

STEP 2 VA SIGMET Prepared

EXAMPLE: VA SIGMET from the above Volcanic Ash Advisory

EXAMPLE: For the situation where ash is forecast to enter a MWO's FIR from another FIR

VOLCANIC ASH OBSERVED IN FIR:

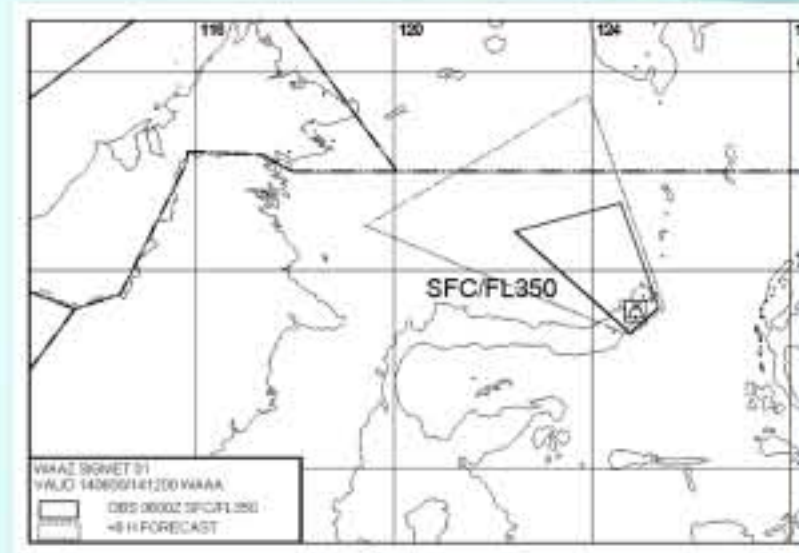
Format:
T.T.A./A.II CCCC YYGGgg
CCCC SIGMET [nn]n VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC-
CCCC <name> FIR VA [ERUPTION][<name>][LOC <lat lon>]
VA CLD OBS AT <GGggZ> FL<nnn/nnn> <lat lon> - <lat lon> - ... MOV
<direction><speed>
FCST <GGggZ> VA CLD APRX <lat lon> - <lat lon> - ...

Example:
WVID21 WAAA 140600
WAAZ SIGMET 01 VALID 140600/141200 WAAA-
WAAZ UJUNG PANDANG FIR VA ERUPTION MT SOPUTAN LOC N0107 E12443
VA CLD OBS AT 0600Z SFC/FL350 N0045 E12440 - N0115 E12515 - N0310
E12430 - N0235 E12140 - N0045 E12440 MOV NE 15KT
FCST 1200Z VA CLD APRX N0050 E12435 - N0115 E12510 - N0520
E12355 - N0250 E11930 - N0050 E12435

VOLCANIC ASH FORECAST TO ENTER FIR:

Format:
T.T.A./A.II CCCC YYGGgg
CCCC SIGMET [nn]n VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC-
CCCC <name> FIR VA [ERUPTION][<name>][LOC <lat lon>]
VA CLD FCST FL<nnn/nnn> APRX <lat lon> - <lat lon> - ... MOV
<direction><speed>

Example:
WVPH31 RPLL 140600
RPHI SIGMET 01 VALID 140600/141200 RPLL-
RPHI MANILA FIR VA ERUPTION SOPUTAN LOC N0107 E12443
VA CLD FCST SFC/350 APRX N0050 E12435 - N0115 E12510 -
N0520 E12355 - N0250 E11930 - N0050 E12435 MOV NE 15KT



While the volcanic ash cloud is shown stretching across more than one FIR, the depiction of any VA cloud outside an MWO's FIR is subject to agreement by the State(s) concerned

STEP 3 VA SIGMET Transmitted

Volcanic ash is extremely hazardous to aircraft operations, so the issue of a VA SIGMET must be given the highest priority and issued without delay.

SEND TO:	Tel	Fax	AFTN	Email
ACC/FIC				
VAAC				
WAFCS				

Renew/Cancel

RENEW

- At least every 6 hours

CANCEL

- When the VAAC advises;
 - VA has gone or has moved to an adjacent FIR; or
 - VA is no longer expected to enter your FIR