

**AERONAUTICAL
INFORMATION
CIRCULAR (AIC)****H36/26**

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION SERVICE,
AIRSERVICES AUSTRALIA, GPO BOX 367,
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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For **DISTRIBUTION** queries, contact:
Email: aim.editorial@airservicesaustralia.com

For **CONTENT** queries regarding this AIC, contact:
Email: webav@bom.gov.au

CHANGES TO SPECI CRITERIA TO INDICATE AN EASING OF WIND GUSTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) compiles and disseminates aerodrome meteorological reports (METAR/SPECI), which are reports of observations of meteorological conditions at an aerodrome.
- 1.2 A SPECI is a special report of meteorological conditions, issued when one or more elements meet specified criteria significant to aviation.
- 1.3 SPECI is also used to identify reports of observations recorded 10 minutes following an improvement in visibility, weather or cloud to above SPECI conditions.
- 1.4 SPECI criteria for wind gusts are currently defined as follows:
 - a) Gusts of 10KT or more above a mean speed of 15KT or more.
 - b) Gust exceeds the last reported gust by 10KT or more.
- 1.5 There are no current SPECI provisions to indicate that wind gusts have eased, potentially resulting in cross and tailwind components on runways reported to exceed operating requirements longer than necessary.
- 1.6 On request from commercial air transport operators, and to align with the recommendations of *ICAO Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*, the Bureau will implement a change to SPECI criteria, allowing a SPECI to be issued 10 minutes following an easing of wind gusts.

2. OPERATIONAL CHANGES

- 2.1 With effect from 21 July 2026, the Bureau will update its SPECI criteria to include improvements in wind gusts.
 - 2.1.1 The improvement SPECI for wind gusts is issued 10 minutes following the moment when the highest recorded wind gust no longer exceeds the mean wind speed by 10KT or more.
- 2.2 A maximum wind gust is only reported in a METAR or SPECI when it exceeds the mean speed by 10KT or more.
 - 2.2.1 An improvement SPECI for wind gusts does not indicate that gusts have ceased.
 - 2.2.2 It indicates only that wind gusts no longer exceed the mean wind speed by the reporting threshold of 10KT or more.
- 2.3 Example:
METAR YABC 250500Z AUTO 31018KT 9999 // NCD 18/06 Q1013 RMK RF000.0/000.0

SPECI YABC 250525Z AUTO 30018G29KT 9999 // NCD 18/06 Q1013 RMK RF000.0/000.0

SPECI YABC 250530Z AUTO 30019G29KT 9999 // NCD 18/06 Q1013 RMK RF000.0/000.0

SPECI YABC 250538Z AUTO 31019KT 9999 // NCD 18/06 Q1013 RMK RF000.0/000.0
- 2.4 For more information about METAR and SPECI, refer to the Aerodrome Weather Reports (METAR/SPECI) Product Info brochure on the Bureau's Aviation Knowledge Centre at www.bom.gov.au/aviation/knowledge-centre/.

3. CANCELLATION

- 3.1 This AIC self-cancels at 202609150000 UTC.

4. DISTRIBUTION

- 4.1 Airservices Australia website only.