



Aviation Weather Observing Bulletin

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Changes to MANAB causes problems for WinIDE

Amendment 2-02 to MANAB (Manual of Abbreviations) dated June 10, 2002, changed the abbreviation for visibility from "VSBY" to "VIS" and the abbreviation for variable from "VRBL" to "VRB". These changes to MANAB conform with the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) standards. The new abbreviations for visibility and variable are not compatible with the Cross-Field Consistency Checks in WinIDE 3.2-1 for reporting variable visibility and variable ceiling.

1. If an observer reports variable visibility with the mean visibility of 2 ½ miles or less and uses the abbreviations "VIS VRB" instead of "VSBY VRBL" in the remarks section of WinIDE, the following error is generated by WinIDE;

Error - "Range of variable visibility is not described properly in remarks."

2. If an observer reports variable ceiling when the ceiling is 900 meters or less and uses the abbreviations "CIG VRB" instead of "CIG VRBL" in the remarks section of WinIDE, the following error is generated by WinIDE

Error - Range of ceiling variability is not described properly in remarks

In both cases the WinIDE Quality Control looks for the abbreviations "VSBYVRBL" and "CIG VRBL" to identify the visibility and ceiling values. WinIDE generates the above errors if the abbreviation "VSBY VRBL" and "CIG VRBL" cannot be found. Until a new version of WinIDE is released, follow the example in MANOBS (Manual of Surface Weather Observations) paragraph 10.2.9.2 and 10.2.8.10.

Observer Procedures:

1. In a situation where the visibility is 2 1/2 miles or less and is variable according to MANOBS paragraph 10.2.9.2:
The observer shall use the abbreviation, "VSBY VRBL x - y" where x is the lower value of the visibility range and y is the upper value of the visibility range in the remarks section of the WinIDE hourly input format as shown in the example in MANOBS paragraph 10.2.9.2.

The observer shall enter abbreviation, "VSBY VRBL x - y" where x is the lower value of the visibility range and y is the upper value of the visibility range on the written record form 0063-2322.

2. In a situation where the ceiling is 900 meters or less and is variable according to MANOBS paragraph 10.2.8.10
The observer shall use the abbreviation "CIG VRBL x-y" where x is the lower limit value and y is the upper value of the range.

The observer shall enter abbreviation "CIG VRBL x-y" where x is the lower limit value and y is the upper value of the range on the written record form 0063-2322.

Observers shall continue to use MANAB for remarks where possible and when no conflicts are generated with WinIDE 3.2-1.

The Aviation Weather Observing Bulletin is a publication of the Meteorological Service of Canada, Atmospheric Monitoring and Water Survey Directorate, Aviation Division. Comments or suggestions for content should be addressed to: Gary Cormick, Manager, Aviation Weather Observing Standards, 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T4