

THE TAF3 SERVICE

*(AIP GEN 3.5 para 3.4.3 to 3.4.6 &
AIP ENR 1.1 para 11.7.2.9)*

Apart from the normal TAF service we have seen so far, international airports and some other busy domestic and military airports are provided with a TAF3 service.

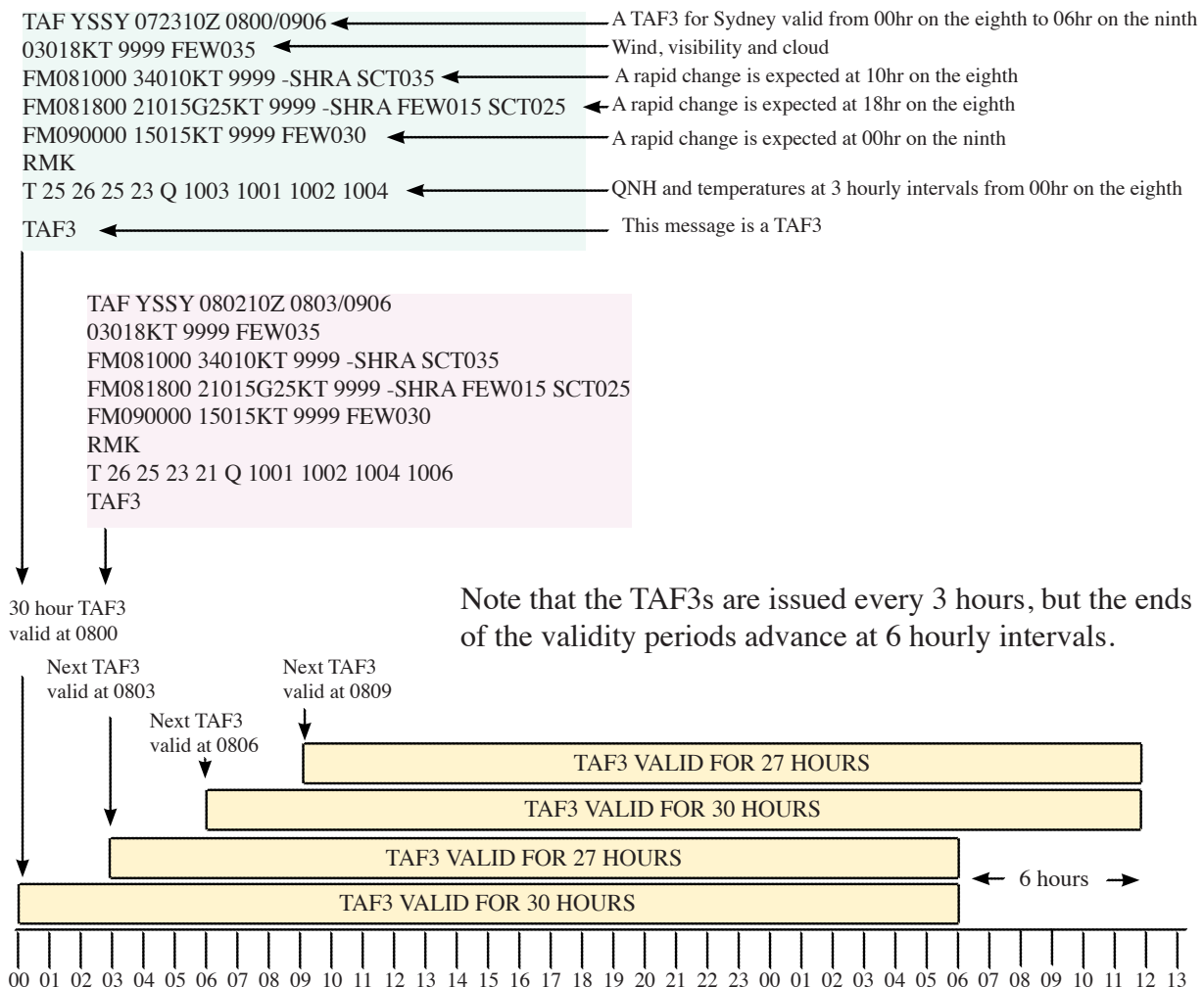
The non-military airports provided with a TAF3 service are:

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra, Gold Coast, Canberra, Darwin, Cairns and Hobart.

These TAF3s usually have a validity period of up to 30 hours to allow for long-distance international flight planning.

Although the validity period is up to 30 hours, the current TAF3 is replaced every 3 hours.

The TAF3s are continually updated as the day goes on.



It is important to note that the 30 minute buffers required by AIP ENR 1.1 para 11.7.2.1(c) and AIP ENR 1.1 para 11.7.2.7 & 11.7.2.8 are **not required** for any OPR in the first 3 hours of a TAF3.

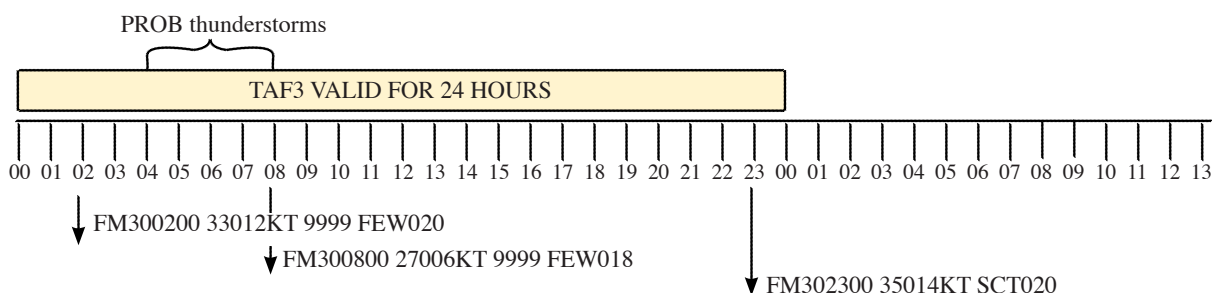
The holding or alternate requirements contained in the first 3 hours of a TAF3 are deemed to commence at the time stated in the TAF3 and no 30 minute buffer is required to be applied.

However, for OPRs contained beyond the first 3 hours of the TAF3 **do require** the 30 minute buffer.

Let's try some examples:

```

24/7 TAF3 Service
TAF YBCG 292313Z 3000/0100 ← Valid from 00hr on the 30th to 00hr on the 1st. (24 hours)
22008KT 9999 FEW030
FM300200 33012KT 9999 FEW020
FM300800 27006KT 9999 FEW018
FM302300 35014KT SCT020
PROB30 TEMPO 3004/3008 VRB20G35KT 3000 TSRA SCT015 BKN025 SCT045
RMK
T 25 26 25 23 Q 1003 1001 1002 1004
TAF3
  
```



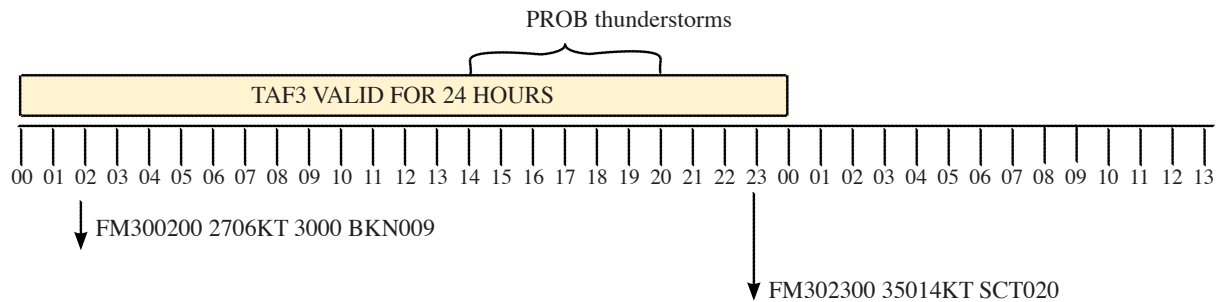
From 300200 the conditions will change rapidly (within 30 minutes), from those described in the second line to those described after FM300200. These new conditions are not below the alternate minima, so no OPR applies.

From 300800 the conditions will change rapidly (within 30 minutes), from those described in the third line to those described after FM300800. These new conditions are not below the alternate minima, so no OPR applies.

From 302300 the conditions will change rapidly (within 30 minutes), from those described in the third line to those described after FM302300. These new conditions are not below the alternate minima, so no OPR applies.

Between 300400 and 300800 there is a 30% probably of thunderstorms with rain. These storms will have a duration of more than 30 minutes but less than one hour. These conditions are below the alternate minima so the OPR for an alternate or holding until 0830 applies.

TAF AMD YBCG 300215Z 3003/0100
 33012KT 9999 SCT020
 FM300200 27006KT 3000 BKN009
 FM302300 35014KT SCT020
 PROB30 TEMPO 3014/3020 VRB20G35KT 3000 TSRA
 SCT015 BKN025 SCT045CB
 RMK
 T 29 25 23 22 Q 1001 1002 1004 1006
 TAF3



An aircraft estimates arrival at Coolangatta at 0145 during the validity of the TAF3 shown above. What OPRs, if any, will apply to this arrival?

- (a) fuel to proceed to an alternate is required
- (b) 60 minutes holding is required
- (c) 30 minutes holding is required
- (d) no alternate fuel is required for this arrival time

Answer

The change (FM) commencing at 300200 indicates more than 4 eighths cloud with a base of 900ft AGL. This is below the alternate minimum. However, since this is a TAF3 and the change will occur in the first three hours of the validity period, the OPR will not apply to this arrival. The correct answer is (d).

An aircraft estimates arrival at Coolangatta at 1345 during the validity of the TAF3 shown above. What OPRs, if any, will apply to this arrival?

- (a) fuel to proceed to an alternate is required
- (b) 60 minutes holding is required
- (c) 30 minutes holding is required
- (d) no alternate fuel is required for this arrival time

Answer

The forecast indicates a probability of thunderstorms from 3014 to 3020. The arrival is within 30 minutes of the commencement of that period. Since that commencement time is not in the first 3 hours of the validity period of this TAF3, the OPR becomes effective thirty minutes before the commencement time. The correct answer is (a).

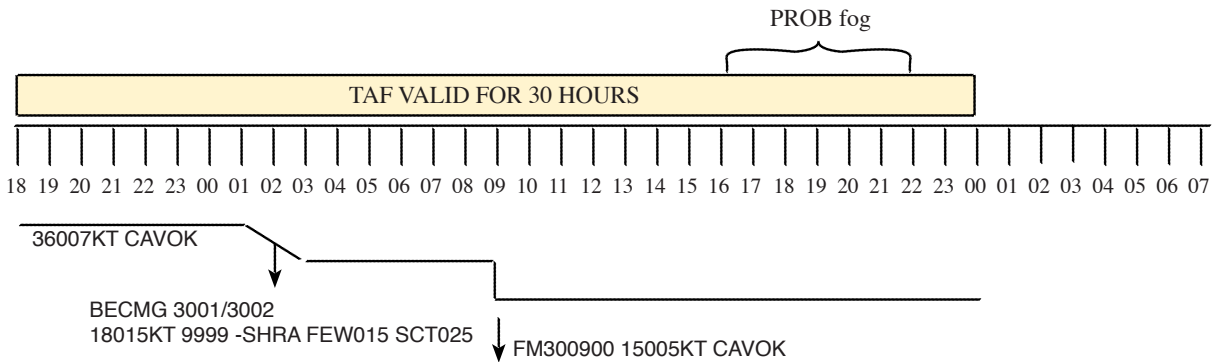
NOTES

CATEGORY	A	B	C	D
S-I VOR/DME	950 (555-3.2)			
CIRCLING	1140 (706-2.4)	1450 (1016-4.0)	1600 (1166-5.0)	
ALTERNATE ‡	(1206-4.4)	(1516-6.0)	(1666-7.0)	

- 1. MAX IAS:
NAOMI : 185KT.
- * 2. SPECIAL ALT MNM
NOT APPLICABLE.
- ‡ 3. ACFT MAY BE
RADAR VECTORED
TO IAF.

Note that a TAF for an international airport may not always be a TAF3. Here is an example of a 'standard' TAF for Melbourne.

TAF YMML 291645Z 2918/3100 36007KT CAVOK
 BECMG 3001/3002 18015KT 9999 -SHRA FEW015 SCT025
 FM300900 15005KT CAVOK
 PROB30 3016/3022 0500 FG
 RMK T 11 12 14 16 Q 1020 1021 1019 1018



Now here is an example of a TAF3 for Melbourne.

TAF AMD YMML 252150Z 2522/2700
 26016KT 2000 +RA BKN005
 FM252330 22020KT 9999 -SHRA BKN010
 FM260300 19014KT 9999 -SHRA BKN020
 FM 260500 18008KT 9999 NSW SCT025
 INTER 2523/2605 5000 SHRA BKN010
 RMK
 T 08 11 12 11 08 Q 1025 1026 1026 1026
 TAF3

INTER 2523/2605 5000 SHRA BKN010

