

Alaska SIGMETs are valid for up to 4 hours, except for Volcanic Ash Cloud SIGMETs which are valid for up to 6 hours. Alaska AIRMETs are valid for up to 8 hours.

**3. SIGMETs/AIRMETs for Hawaii and U.S. FIRs in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Western Atlantic and Eastern and Central Pacific Oceans**

These SIGMETs are valid for up to 4 hours, except SIGMETs for Tropical Cyclones and Volcanic Ash Clouds, which are valid for up to 6 hours. AIRMETs are issued for the Hawaiian Islands and are valid for up to 6 hours. No AIRMETs are issued for U.S. FIRs in the the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Western Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

**c. SIGMET**

A SIGMET advises of weather that is potentially hazardous to all aircraft. SIGMETs are unscheduled products that are valid for 4 hours. However, SIGMETs associated with tropical cyclones and volcanic ash clouds are valid for 6 hours. Unscheduled updates and corrections are issued as necessary.

**1.** In the CONUS, SIGMETs are issued when the following phenomena occur or are expected to occur:

- (a) Severe icing not associated with thunderstorms.
- (b) Severe or extreme turbulence or clear air turbulence (CAT) not associated with thunderstorms.
- (c) Widespread dust storms or sandstorms lowering surface visibilities to below 3 miles.
- (d) Volcanic ash.

**2.** In Alaska and Hawaii, SIGMETs are also issued for:

- (a) Tornadoes.
- (b) Lines of thunderstorms.
- (c) Embedded thunderstorms.
- (d) Hail greater than or equal to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter.

**3.** SIGMETs are identified by an alphabetic designator from November through Yankee excluding Sierra and Tango. (Sierra, Tango, and Zulu are reserved for AIRMET text [WA] products; G-AIRMETS do not use the Sierra, Tango, or Zulu

designators.) The first issuance of a SIGMET will be labeled as UWS (Urgent Weather SIGMET). Subsequent issuances are at the forecaster's discretion. Issuance for the same phenomenon will be sequentially numbered, using the original designator until the phenomenon ends. For example, the first issuance in the Chicago (CHI) FA area for phenomenon moving from the Salt Lake City (SLC) FA area will be SIGMET Papa 3, if the previous two issuances, Papa 1 and Papa 2, had been in the SLC FA area. Note that no two different phenomena across the country can have the same alphabetic designator at the same time.

**EXAMPLE–**

**Example of a SIGMET:**

*BOSR WS 050600*

*SIGMET ROMEO 2 VALID UNTIL 051000*

*ME NH VT*

*FROM CAR TO YSJ TO CON TO MPV TO CAR*

*OCNL SEV TURB BLW 080 EXP DUE TO STG NWLY FLOW. CONDS CONTG BYD 1000Z.*

**d. Convective SIGMET (WST)**

**1.** Convective SIGMETs are issued in the conterminous U.S. for any of the following:

- (a) Severe thunderstorm due to:
  - (1) Surface winds greater than or equal to 50 knots.
  - (2) Hail at the surface greater than or equal to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter.
  - (3) Tornadoes.
- (b) Embedded thunderstorms.
- (c) A line of thunderstorms.
- (d) Thunderstorms producing precipitation greater than or equal to heavy precipitation affecting 40 percent or more of an area at least 3,000 square miles.

**2.** Any convective SIGMET implies severe or greater turbulence, severe icing, and low-level wind shear. A convective SIGMET may be issued for any convective situation that the forecaster feels is hazardous to all categories of aircraft.

**3.** Convective SIGMET bulletins are issued for the western (W), central (C), and eastern (E) United States. (Convective SIGMETs are not issued for Alaska or Hawaii.) The areas are separated at 87 and 107 degrees west longitude with sufficient overlap to cover most cases when the phenomenon crosses the