

1. Volcanic Ash SIGMETs

a) The VA SIGMET template is described in Annex 3 [*Meteorological Services for International Air Navigation*], Appendix 6 [*Template for SIGMET and AIRMET messages*].

b) VA SIGMET examples:

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LFMM SIGMET 1 VALID 020800/021200 LFPW- LFMM MARSEILLE FIR/UIR VA  
ERUPTION MT STROMBOLI LOC N3848 E01511 VA CLD FCST E OF E00900  
SFC/FL200 MOV NW 40KT FCST 1200Z N4415 E00700 - N4400 E00700 - N4315 E00945 -  
N4115 E00945 -N4115 E00800 - N4045 E00800 - N4215 E00545 - N4345 E00545=
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2. MWO – Meteorological Watch Office

The VA SIGMET is issued by each MWO, who usually, unless they have additional information, take the VAA data and provide this for specific FIRs. Where a VAAC provides supplementary volcanic ash products [the information provided on the SIGMET is consistent with the low contamination area]. SIGMETs are provided from the start of VA contamination of the corresponding FIR/UIR. They give information (based on a snapshot) for the beginning of the validity period and an outlook (also a snapshot) for the end of the validity period (which is a maximum of 6h later). The first SIGMET is generally shorter than 6h in order to have the following ones issued at synoptic hours (00, 06, 12 and 18z) and are mainly based on the VAAC's production (T+0 and T+6).

3. VA SIGMET dissemination

Appropriate Regional OPMET Center (ROC: London, Toulouse or Washington, following the Area of responsibility) will disseminate the VA SIGMET internationally.