



## **MeteoSwiss - at the service of safety in the air**

***MeteoSwiss, the Swiss Meteorological Institute, is responsible for safety in the air from a meteorological perspective and therefore makes an important contribution to aviation safety. The main duties of the aviation weather service include advice on aviation weather, aviation weather monitoring and the definition of aviation weather products according to international standards.***

### **Advice on aviation weather**

Based on a large amount of current weather data, such as weather reports from airports around the world, satellite pictures, weather radar data or digital weather forecasting models, MeteoSwiss makes available customer-specific aviation weather information.

Appropriate documentation and information are used by airlines and charter companies to plan payloads and to choose flight paths, as well as by air traffic controllers to select runways and by pilots for planning purposes both before and during the flight.

Also people flying small aircraft, gliders, balloons and hang-gliders, which are more susceptible to the elements, can obtain tailor-made aviation weather data from MeteoSwiss. Either via a personal consultancy service which is available 24 hours a day, via the Internet or SMS/MMS messaging.

### **Aviation weather monitoring**

The weather conditions at Zurich and Geneva airports are monitored and assessed around the clock by MeteoSwiss. Alongside visual monitoring, which is still as important as ever, support comes in the form of data from large numbers of measuring devices and instruments, such as transmissometers for measuring runway visibility and ceilometers for measuring cloud cover, all of which are installed around the airports.

Every half hour, this information on the current weather (METAR) with its short-term forecast (TREND) is sent around the world in an internationally regulated format. In the event of significant changes, special messages are issued.

### **Definition of aviation weather products according to international standards**

The way in which aviation weather products are produced is controlled internationally by the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO).

MeteoSwiss makes sure that these standards and recommendations are also applied when it comes to aviation in Switzerland. In addition, MeteoSwiss actively represents Switzerland in various international working groups which discuss, formulate and implement the relevant rules and regulations.