

Beaufort Scale

(speed of wind in knots)

0	<1 knot
1	1-3 knots
2	4-6 knots
3	7-10 knots
4	11-16 knots
5	17-21 knots
6	22-27 knots
7	28-33 knots
8	34-40 knots
9	41-47 knots
10	48-55 knots
11	56-63 knots
12	64+ knots

Gale Warnings

Gale	Winds of force 8 (34-40 knots)
Severe gale	Winds of force 9 (41-47 knots)
Storm	Winds of force 10 (48-55 knots)
Violent storm	Winds of force 11 (56-63 knots)
Hurricane force	Winds of force 12 (64 knots or more)

Time

(respect to time of issue)

Imminent	< 6 hours
Soon	6 to 12 hours
Later	> 12 hours

Wind Terms

Wind direction	Direction the wind is blowing from
Cyclonic	Considerable change in wind direction (passing depression)
Veering	Changing of the wind in a clockwise direction
Backing	Changing of the wind in an anticlockwise direction
Variable	Light winds from various directions, usually < force 3.

Sea State

(Wave Height)

Smooth	< 0.5 m
Slight	0.5 to 1.25 m
Moderate	1.25 to 2.5 m
Rough	2.5 to 4.0 m
Very rough	4.0 to 6.0 m
High	6.0 to 9.0 m
Very high	9.0 to 14.0 m
Phenomenal	> 14.0 m

Visibility

(how far we can see)

Very poor	< 1000 metres
Poor	1000 metres to 2nm
Moderate	2 to 5 nm
Good	More than 5nm

Pressure System Movement

(speed of weather system)

Slowly	< 15 knots
Steadily	15 to 25 knots
Rather Quickly	25 to 35 knots
Rapidly	35 to 45 knots
Very rapidly	> 45 knots

Pressure Change (Rising or Falling)

(over a 3 hour period)

More slowly	A progressively slower rate than previous
Slowly	0.1 to 1.5mb
Rising / Falling	1.6 to 3.5mb
Quickly	3.6 to 6.0 mb
Vary rapidly	> 6.0 mb
Now rising / falling	A change in pressure direction change.