



Meteorological Services

Accurate weather information for a safe airspace

Belgocontrol is responsible for the safety of air navigation services in the airspace of Belgium and Luxembourg and operates on the authority of the Belgian State. It controls all aircraft movements at and around Brussels Airport and the four regional public airports of Antwerp, Charleroi, Liège and Ostend.

Providing meteorological information to the aeronautical sector is the core mission of the Belgocontrol meteorological service. We thereby fully meet the international regulations as set out and monitored by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and Eurocontrol.

Accurate meteorological information is crucial to air traffic controllers. The close collaboration between meteorologists and air traffic controllers within Belgocontrol guarantees that the most recent weather information is constantly exchanged and discussed.

Airspace users such as Airlines, General Aviation and Sports Aviation (gliders, balloonists, ULM-pilots, ...) also need reliable weather data before as well as during the flight. Messages and bulletins tailored to the customers' needs are therefore distributed through various communication channels. Furthermore, airport operators, handlers and flight dispatchers make gratefully use of correct weather forecasts and warnings in order to carry out their task safely and efficiently.



Monitoring the weather

Weather observations 24/7

Correct weather forecasts start with accurate observations of all weather elements. At every airport meteorologists observe the evolution of all weather parameters such as temperature, air pressure, humidity, clouds and precipitation by means of high technological sensors. Based on these values, observation messages are disseminated internationally. This information can subsequently be consulted by pilots and air traffic controllers worldwide.

To observe the weather "behind the horizon", forecasters use high quality technological tools, such as the weather radar and satellite images. The Belgocontrol weather radar in Zaventem detects precipitation zones within a 250 km radius and provides detailed information on the intensity and the moving speed of the precipitation. The last generation digital satellite images yield a treasure-trove of meteorological information for a vast geographical area. Meteorological satellites scan the whole earth's surface and produce extremely detailed images of cloud formations.

Forecasting the weather

For all airspace users

Apart from accurate observations, meteorologists also use various numerical models to forecast the weather. Weather models show a possible evolution of the different meteorological parameters in the short and medium term. These "models" are analysed, interpreted and then transformed into tailor-made forecasts by our meteorologists.

A safe flight always begins with a good preparation. It is essential to know the weather evolution at the point of departure, along the flight route and at the place of destination.

Weather forecasts are therefore of great importance to air traffic controllers to enable them to organise air traffic safely and efficiently. Belgocontrol also constantly generates a variety of weather forecasts for civil, general and sports aviation. A team of meteorologists are at all times at the pilots' disposal to offer a personal briefing. They also provide meteorological support during aviation events through bulletins or by their presence on the spot.

Being able to timely anticipate changing weather circumstances is of paramount importance to air traffic safety. Therefore warnings of hazardous weather phenomena are communicated as quickly as possible. Specific communication channels and procedures are set up to immediately inform all the parties concerned.



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Belgocontrol on the internet

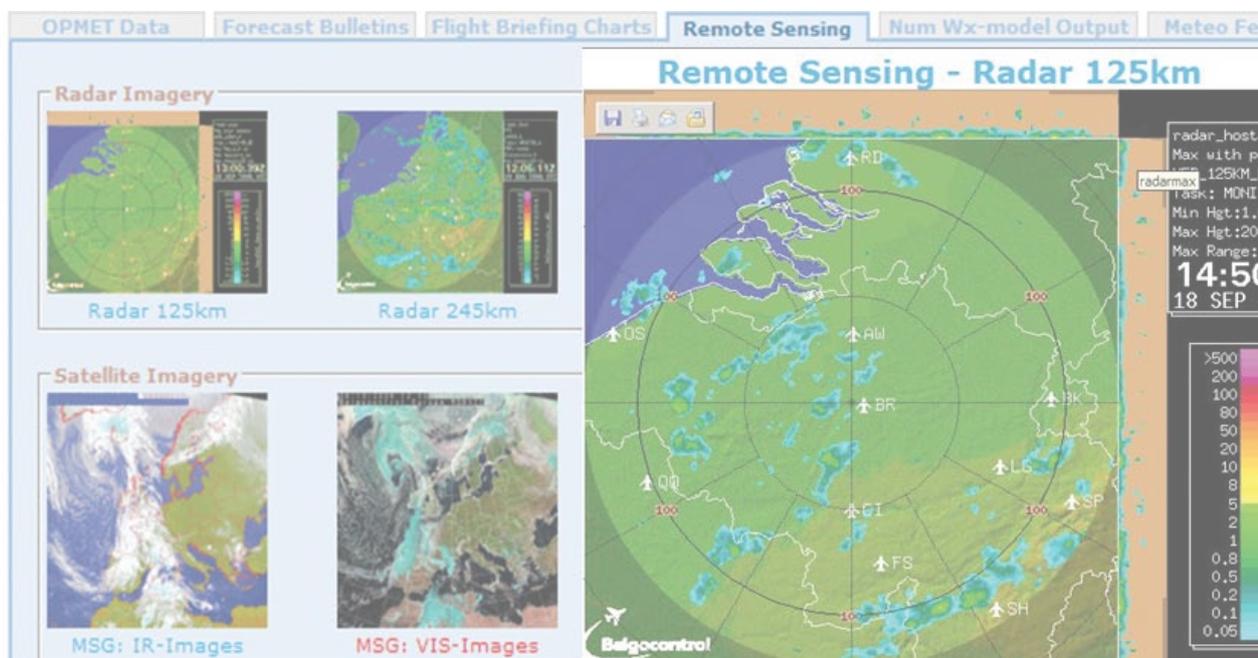
www.belgocontrol.be

To offer you a high quality service, the Belgocontrol meteorologists provide you with accurate weather information through internet, telephone and fax. On the Belgocontrol website you can find a broad range of applications to obtain the latest weather information to optimally prepare your flight:

- Retrieve the latest meteorological bulletins and weather charts
- Consult radar images
- Do a self-briefing before take-off
- Enter a flight plan and retrieve a Preflight Information Bulletin (PIB)
- Request climatic data.

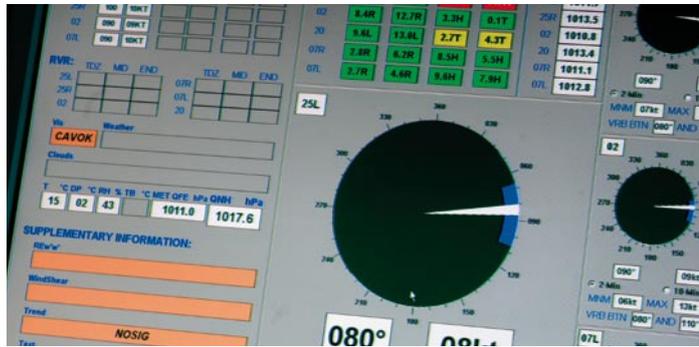
Flight Planning
Flight Briefing
Weather Information

Shortcuts
Weather service
Weather Contact
Weather service
Weather Contact
Glossary
Weather Links



From left to right:

Maintenance of automatic rain collector; Observation post at the Control tower of Brussels Airport;
Meteo training course on weather charts; Weather monitor screen; Maintenance of wind sensor equipment.



Training services

To broaden your horizon

General Meteorology

For airspace users, it is vital to have a good insight into meteorology so as to guarantee everyone's safety. That is why the Belgocontrol meteorological service regularly organises training sessions on "General Meteorology". This course is not only intended for all airspace users, but also for all those interested in meteorology and aviation.

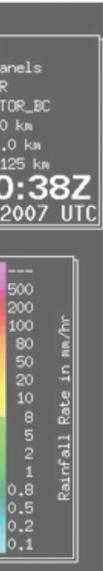
PPL – CPL – ATPL

The meteorological course in preparation to the official PPL – CPL – ATPL exams of the Belgian Civil Aviation Authority is given by professional meteorologists with extensive teaching experience. All subjects prescribed by the Belgian CAA regulation are covered. The course not only deals with the theoretical knowledge but also focuses on practical exercises and problem definitions. The customer coming first, the course periods can be fitted into the schedule of the Flight Training Organization (FTO) in the form of daytime, evening or weekend sessions.

Tailor-made training

Our training programmes and schedules can be adapted according to our customers' needs. Any special requests regarding meteorological training or for example the organization of a "meteorological evening" for your association can be submitted to our Training Office in order to receive more information about the various possibilities.

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For more information, please contact:

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