ICAO NOTAM format

The format of NOTAM is defined in Annex 15 to the International Convention on Civil Aviation. Here is a typical NOTAM and its decode.

A1484/02 NOTAMN
Q) EGTT/QMRXX/IV/NBO/A/000/999/5129N00028W005
A) EGLL
B) 0208231540
C) 0210310500 EST
E) RWY 09R/27L DUE WIP NO CENTRELINE, TDZ OR SALS LIGHTING AVBL

Notam Decoder

A1484/02 - one letter to indicate the Series, a 4-digit NOTAM number followed by a stroke and two digits to indicate the year.

NOTAMN - Suffix N Indicates this is a new NOTAM. Other options are R for NOTAM replacing another or C for one cancelling another.

Q) EGTT/QMRXX/IV/NBO/A/000/999/5129N00028W005

This is the "Q" or qualifier line, it always starts Q) and contains the following fields, each separated by a stroke.

FIR (here EGTT, London FIR)

NOTAM Code, a 5 letter code starting with Q, defined in Annexe 15. Here QMR indicates that it concerns a Runway. XX indicates that remaining detail is in Plain Language. In this particular case the text shows that certain runway lighting is unavailable. Strictly speaking under ICAO rules this should have appeared as separate NOTAM for each type of lighting. QLCAS is the code for centreline lighting u/s QLZAS is the code for Touch Down Zone lighting u/s and QLAAS is the code for Approach Lighting u/s (note in all cases AS indicates unserviceable). The use of QMRXX here is a sensible compromise that reduces the number of NOTAM from three to one. A full list of codes is included in ICAO document 8126 (Aeronautical Information Services Manual).

IV - Indicates that this is significant for IFR and VFR traffic

NBO - indicates for immediate attention of aircraft operators, for inclusion in PIB's and Operationally significant for IFR flights

A - Indicates scope, here Aerodrome, others are E (en-route) or W (nav warning)

000/999 - lower and upper limits expressed as a flight level. In this case it has been left as the default as it is not applicable.

5129N00028W005 - Indicates the geographical centre and radius of influence, always this number of digits. In this case the radius is 5 n.m.

A) EGLL - ICAO indicator of the aerodrome or FIR (London Heathrow) can include more than one FIR

B) 0208231540 - Date/time group (UTC) when this NOTAM becomes effective

C) 0210310500 EST - Date/time group (UTC) when the NOTAM ceases to be effective. Note "EST" means "estimated" (NOT Eastern Standard Time!). All NOTAM with EST remain in force until cancelled or replaced.

E) RWY 09R/27L DUE WIP NO CENTRELINE, TDZ OR SALS LIGHTING AVBL - text of the notam using ICAO abbreviations.

Decode of this is "Runway 09/27 due to work in progress no centreline, touchdown zone or simple approach lighting system available"

INTERNATIONAL NOTAM (Q) CODES

This appendix is to be used to interpret the contents of coded international NOTAM's.

a. A NOTAM code group contains five letters. The first letter is always the letter "Q" to indicate a code abbreviation for use in the composition of NOTAM's.

b. The second and third letters identify the subject being reported. (See Second and Third Letter Decode Tables).

c. The fourth and fifth letters identify the status of operation of the subject being reported. (See Fourth and Fifth Letter Decode Tables).

THE NOTAM CODE		
DECODE		
SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
AGA Lighting Facilities (L)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
LA	Approach lighting system (specify runway and type)	apch lgt
LB	Aerodrome beacon	abn
LC	Runway center line lights (specify runway)	rwy centreline lgt
LD	Landing direction indicator lights	ldi lgt
LE	Runway edge lights (specify runway)	rwy edge lgt
LF	Sequenced flashing lights (specify runway)	sequenced flg lgt
LH	High intensity runway lights (specify runway)	high intst rwy lgt
LI	Runway end identifier lights (specify runway)	rwy end id lgt
LJ	Runway alignment indicator lights (specify runway)	rwy alignment indicator lgt
LK	Category II components of approach lighting system (specify runway)	category II components apch lgt
LL	Low intensity runway lights (specify runway)	low intst rwy lgt
LM	Medium intensity runway lights (specify runway)	medium intst rwy lgt
LP	Precision approach path indicator (PAPI) (specify runway)	papi
LR	All landing area lighting facilities	ldg area lgt fac
LS	Stopway lights (specify runway)	swy lgt
LT	Threshold lights (specify runway)	thr lgt
LV	Visual approach slope indicator system (specify type and runway)	vasis
LW	Heliport lighting	heliport lgt
LX	Taxiway centre line lights (specify taxiway)	twy centreline lgt
LY	Taxiway edge lights (specify taxiway)	twy edge lgt
LZ	Runway touchdown zone lights (specify runway)	rwy tdz lgt

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
AGA Movement and Landing Area (M)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
MA	Movement area	mov area
MB	Bearing strength (specify part of landing area or movement area)	bearing strength
MC	Clearway (specify runway)	cwy
MD	Declared distances (specify runway)	declared dist
MG	Taxiing guidance system	tax guidance system
MH	Runway arresting gear (specify runway)	rwy arst gear
MK	Parking area	prkg area
MM	Daylight markings (specify threshold, centre line, etc.)	day markings
MN	Apron	apron
MP	Aircraft stands (specify)	acft stand
MR	Runway (specify runway)	rwy
MS	Stopway (specify runway)	swy
MT	Threshold (specify runway)	thr
MU	Runway turning bay (specify runway)	rwy turning bay
MW	Strip (specify runway)	strip
MX	Taxiway(s) (specify)	twy

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
AGA Facilities and Services (F)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
FA	Aerodrome	ad
FB	Braking action measurement equipment (specify type)	ba measurement eqpt
FC	Ceiling measurement equipment	ceiling measurement eqpt
FD	Docking system (specify AGNIS, BOLDS, etc.)	dckg system
FF	Fire fighting and rescue	fire and rescue
FG	Ground movement control	gnd mov ctl
FH	Helicopter alighting area/platform	hel alighting area
FL	Landing direction indicator	ldi
FM	Meteorological service (specify type)	met
FO	Fog dispersal system	fog dispersal
FP	Heliport	heliport
FS	Snow removal equipment	snow removal eqpt
FT	Transmissometer (specify runway and, where applicable, designator(s) of transmissometer(s))	transmissometer
FU	Fuel availability	fuel avbl
FW	Wind direction indicator	wdi
FZ	Customs	cust

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS

COM Communications and Radar Facilities (C)

Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
CA	Air/ground (specify service and frequency)	a/g fac
CE	En route surveillance radar	rsr
CG	Ground controlled approach system (GCA)	gca
CL	Selective calling system (SELCAL)	selcal
CM	Surface movement radar	smr
CP	Precision approach radar (PAR) (specify runway)	par
CR	Surveillance radar element of precision approach radar system (specify wavelength)	sre
CS	Secondary surveillance radar (SSR)	ssr
CT	Terminal area surveillance radar (TAR)	tar

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS

COM Instrument and Microwave Landing System (I)

Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
ID	DME associated with ILS	ils dme
IG	Glide path (ILS) (specify runway)	ils gp
II	Inner marker (ILS) (specify runway)	ils im
IL	Localizer (ILS) (specify runway)	ils liz
IM	Middle marker (ILS) (specify runway)	ils mm
IO	Outer marker (ILS) (specify runway)	ils om
IS	ILS Category I (specify runway)	ils I
IT	ILS Category II (specify runway)	ils II
IU	ILS Category III (specify runway)	ils III
IW	Microwave landing system (MLS) (specify runway)	mls
IX	Locator, outer (ILS) (specify runway)	ils lo
IY	Locator, middle (ILS) (specify runway)	ils lm

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS

COM Terminal and En Route Navigation Facilities (N)

Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
NA	All radio navigation facilities (except...)	all rdo nav fac
NB	Nondirectional radio beacon	ndb
NC	DECCA	decca
ND	Distance measuring equipment (DME)	dme
NF	Fan marker	fan mkr
NL	Locator (specify identification)	l
NM	VOR/DME	vor/dme
NN	TACAN	tacan
NO	OMEGA	omega
NT	VORTAC	vortac
NV	VOR	vor
NX	Direction finding station (specify type and frequency)	df

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
RAC Airspace Organization (A)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
AA	Minimum altitude (specify en route/crossing/safe)	mnm alt
AC	Class B, C, D, or E Surface Area	ctr
AD	Air defense identification zone (ADIZ)	adiz
AE	Control area (CTA)	cta
AF	Flight information region (FIR)	fir
AH	Upper control area (UTA)	uta
AL	Minimum usable flight level	mnm usable fl
AN	Area navigation route	rnav route
AO	Oceanic control area (OCA)	oca
AP	Reporting point (specify name or Coded designator)	rep
AR	ATS route (specify)	ats route
AT	Class B Airspace	tma
AU	Upper flight information region (UIR)	uir
AV	Upper advisory area (UDA)	uda
AX	Intersection (INT)	int
AZ	Aerodrome traffic zone (ATZ)	atz

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
RAC Air Traffic and VOLMET Services (S)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
SA	Automatic terminal information service (ATIS)	atis
SB	ATS reporting office	aro
SC	Area control centre (ACC)	acc
SE	Flight information service (FIS)	fis
SF	Aerodrome flight information service (AFIS)	afis
SL	Flow control centre	flow ctl centre
SO	Oceanic area control centre (OAC)	oac
SP	Approach control service (APP)	app
SS	Flight service station (FSS)	fss
ST	Aerodrome control tower (TWR)	twr
SU	Upper area control centre (UAC)	uac
SV	VOLMET broadcast	volmet
SY	Upper advisory service (specify)	advisory ser

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
RAC Air Traffic Procedures (P)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
PA	Standard instrument arrival (STAR) (specify route designator)	star
PB	Standard VFR arrival	std vfr arr
PC	Contingency procedures	contingency proc
PD	Standard instrument departure (SID) (specify route designator)	sid
PE	Standard VFR departure	std vfr dep
PF	Flow control procedure	flow ctl proc
PH	Holding procedure	hldg proc
PI	Instrument approach procedure (specify type and runway)	inst apch proc
PL	Obstacle clearance limit (specify procedure)	ocl
PK	VFR approach procedure	vfr apch proc
PM	Aerodrome operating minima (specify procedure and amended minimum)	opr minima

PN	Noise operating restrictions	noise opr restrictions
PO	Obstacle clearance altitude	oca
PP	Obstacle clearance height	och
PR	Radio failure procedure	radio failure proc
PT	Transition altitude	transition alt
PU	Missed approach procedure (specify runway)	missed apch proc
PX	Minimum holding altitude (specify fix)	mnm hldg alt
PZ	ADIZ procedure	adiz proc

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
Navigation Warnings: Airspace Restrictions (R)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
RA	Airspace reservation (specify)	airspace reservation
RD	Danger area (specify national prefix and number)	..d..
RO	Overflying of ... (specify)	overflying
RP	Prohibited area (specify national prefix and number)	..p..
RR	Restricted area (specify national prefix and number)	..r..
RT	Temporary restricted area	tempo restricted

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
Navigation Warnings: Warnings (W)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
WA	Air display	air display
WB	Aerobatics	aerobatics
WC	Captive balloon or kite	captive balloon or kite
WD	Demolition of explosives	demolition of explosives
WE	Exercises (specify)	exer
WF	Air refueling	air refueling
WG	Glider flying	glider flying
WJ	Banner/target towing	banner/target towing
WL	Ascent of free balloon	ascent of free balloon
WM	Missile, gun or rocket firing	frng
WP	Parachute jumping exercise (PJE)	pje
WS	Burning or blowing gas	burning or blowing gas
WT	Mass movement of aircraft	mass mov of acft
WV	Formation flight	formation flt
WZ	model flying	model flying

SECOND AND THIRD LETTERS		
Other Information (O)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
OA	Aeronautical information service	ais
OB	Obstacle (specify details)	obst
OE	Aircraft entry requirements	acft entry rqmnts
OL	Obstacle lights on ... (specify)	obst lgt
OR	Rescue coordination centre	rcc

FOURTH AND FIFTH LETTERS

Availability (A)

Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
AC	Withdrawn for maintenance	withdrawn maint
AD	Available for daylight operation	avbl day ops
AF	Flight checked and found reliable	fltck okay
AG	Operating but ground checked only, awaiting flight check	opr awaiting fltck
AH	Hours of service are now	hr ser
AK	Resumed normal operations	okay
AM	Military operations only	mil ops only
AN	Available for night operation	avbl night ops
AO	Operational	opr
AP	Available, prior permission required	avbl ppr
AR	Available on request	avbl o/r
AS	Unserviceable	u/s
AU	Not available (specify reason if appropriate)	not avbl
AW	Completely withdrawn	withdrawn
AX	Previously promulgated shutdown has been cancelled	promulgated shutdown cnl

FOURTH AND FIFTH LETTERS

Changes (C)

Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
CA	Activated	act
CC	Completed	cmpl
CD	Deactivated	deactivated
CE	Erected	erected
CF	Operating frequency(ies) changed to	freq change
CG	Downgraded to	downgraded to
CH	Changed	changed
CI	Identification or radio call sign changed to	ident change
CL	Realigned	realigned
CM	Displaced	displaced
CO	Operating	opr
CP	Operating on reduced power	opr reduced pwr
CR	Temporarily replaced by	tempo rplcd by
CS	Installed	installed
CT	On test, do not use	on test, do not use

FOURTH AND FIFTH LETTERS

Hazard Conditions (H)

Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
HA	Braking action is ...	ba is
1)Poor 2)Medium/Poor 3)Medium 4)Medium/Good 5)Good		
HB	Braking coefficient is ... (specify measurement device used)	brkg coefficient is

HC	Covered by compacted snow to depth of	cov compacted snow depth
HD	Covered by dry snow to a depth of	cov dry snow depth
HE	Covered by water to a depth of	cov water depth
HF	Totally free of snow and ice	free of snow and ice
HG	Grass cutting in progress	grass cutting
HH	Hazard due to (specify)	hazard due
HI	Covered by ice	cov ice
HJ	Launch planned ... (specify balloon flight identification or project Code name, launch site, planned period of launch(es)_date/time, expected climb direction, estimate time to pass 18,000 m (60,000 ft), together with estimated location)	launch plan
HK	Migration in progress	migration inpr
HL	Snow clearance completed	snow clr cmpl
HM	Marked by	marked by
HN	Covered by wet snow or slush to a depth of	cov wet snow depth
HO	Obscured by snow	obscured by snow
HP	Snow clearance in progress	snow clr inpr
HQ	Operation cancelled ... (specify balloon flight identification or project Code name)	opr cnl
HR	Standing water	standing water
HS	Sanding in progress	sanding
HT	Approach according to signal area only	apch according signal area only
HU	Launch in progress ... (specify balloon flight identification or project Code name, launch site, date/time of launch(es), estimated time passing 18,000 m (60,000 ft), or reaching cruising level if at or below 18,000 m (60,000 ft), together with estimated location, estimated date/time of termination of the flight, and planned location of ground contact when applicable)	launch inpr
HV	Work completed	work cmpl
HW	Work in progress	wip
HX	Concentration of birds	bird concentration
HY	Snow banks exist (specify height)	snow banks hgt
HZ	Covered by frozen ruts and ridges	cov frozen ruts and ridges

FOURTH AND FIFTH LETTERS		
Limitations (L)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
LA	Operating on auxiliary power supply	opr aux pwr
LB	Reserved for aircraft based therein	reserved for acft based therein
LC	Closed	clsd
LD	Unsafe	unsafe
LE	Operating without auxiliary power supply	opr without aux pwr
LF	Interference from	interference from
LG	Operating without identification	opr without ident
LH	Unserviceable for aircraft heavier than	u/s acft heavier than
LI	Closed to IFR operations	clsd ifr ops
LK	Operating as a fixed light	opr as f lgt
LL	Usable for length of...and width of...	usable length/width
LN	Closed to all night operations	clsd night ops
LP	Prohibited to	prohibited to
LR	Aircraft restricted to runways and taxiways	acft restricted to rwy and twy
LS	Subject to interruption	subj intrp
LT	Limited to	limited to
LV	Closed to VFR operations	clsd vfr ops
LW	Will take place	will take place
LX	Operating but caution advised due to	opr but caution due

FOURTH AND FIFTH LETTERS		
Other (XX)		
Code	Signification	Uniform Abbreviated Phraseology
XX	Where 4th and 5th letter Code does not cover the situation, use XX and supplement by plain language	(plain language following the NOTAM Code)