

What the concentration charts show

Concentration charts are **raw model data**. A comment on them is sometimes added by the forecaster for further expertise on the product.

Unlike the [VAG](#), which only draws the shape of the ash cloud, the concentration charts describe the ash cloud **in terms of ash concentration**.

They provide the information of ash concentration in three different layers:

- SFC – FL200
- FL200 – FL350
- FL350 – FL550

The key

The charts detail a number of polygons which will be divided into low, medium and high contamination areas.

- Low Contamination: $\geq 200 \leq 2000$ micrograms per cubic metre 
- Medium Contamination: $> 2000 < 4000$ micrograms per cubic metre 
- High Contamination: ≥ 4000 micrograms per cubic metre 

The charts detail a number of polygons divided into low, medium and high contamination areas.

Contamination	Concentration	Line
Low	≥ 200 and ≤ 2000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Blue
Medium	> 2000 and < 4000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Grey
High	≥ 4000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Red

Sources

- International Civil Aviation Organization — Doc 9974 AN/487 *Flight Safety and Volcanic Ash* — [9974 en.pdf](#)
- Doc 9766-AN/968 *Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW)* — [450.pdf](#)
- VAAC Toulouse — <https://vaac.meteo.fr/docs/>