

Beaufort wind force scale

Specifications and equivalent speeds

Beaufort wind scale	Mean Wind Speed		Limits of wind speed		Wind descriptive terms	Probable wave height in metres*	Probable maximum wave height in metres*	Seastate	Sea descriptive terms
	Knots	m/s	Knots	m/s					
0	0	0	<1	0-0.2	Calm	-	-	0	Calm (glassy)
1	2	0.8	1-3	0.3-1.5	Light air	0.1	0.1	1	Calm (rippled)
2	5	2.4	4-6	1.6-3.3	Light breeze	0.2	0.3	2	Smooth (wavelets)
3	9	4.3	7-10	3.4-5.4	Gentle breeze	0.6	1.0	3	Slight
4	13	6.7	11-16	5.5-7.9	Moderate breeze	1.0	1.5	3-4	Slight-Moderate
5	19	9.3	17-21	8.0-10.7	Fresh breeze	2.0	2.5	4	Moderate
6	24	12.3	22-27	10.8-13.8	Strong breeze	3.0	4.0	5	Rough
7	30	15.5	28-33	13.9-17.1	Near gale	4.0	5.5	5-6	Rough-Very rough
8	37	18.9	34-40	17.2-20.7	Gale	5.5	7.5	6-7	Very rough-High
9	44	22.6	41-47	20.8-24.4	Severe gale	7.0	10.0	7	High
10	52	26.4	48-55	24.5-28.4	Storm	9.0	12.5	8	Very High
11	60	30.5	56-63	28.5-32.6	Violent storm	11.5	16.0	8	Very High
12	-	-	64+	32.7+	Hurricane	14+	-	9	Phenomenal

- * i. These values refer to well-developed wind waves of the open sea.
 ii. The lag effect between the wind getting up and the sea increasing should be borne in mind.