

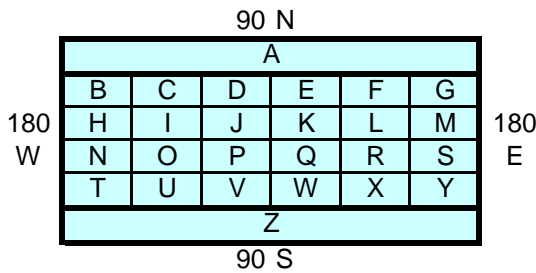
Location identifier

The Location Identifier is a 9-character group with format: **LLffffffl**
 where L represents an upper case letter, f a figure and l a lower case letter.

pos 1 The Globe is divided in 26 areas (from N to S and from W to E), each indicated by a capital letter.

- A refers to the area north of 60 degrees N
- Z refers to the area south of 60 degrees S
- B through Y refer to blocks of 30 degrees latitude and 60 degrees longitude

On a global conform map this looks as follows.



Note: All boxes include the bordering Northern latitude circle and the Western meridian but exclude the Southern latitude circle and the Eastern meridian.

pos 2 The subdivision of the areas above is again indicated by a capital letter. The subdivision is based on getting 10 degree blocks, but in the polar areas the longitude dimensions are larger. For the polar areas (A and Z) the subdivision is as follows.

Area A:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 80-90 | B | | | | | | C | | | | | |
| 70-80 | D | | F | | G | | H | | J | | K | |
| 60-70 | L | M | N | P | Q | R | S | T | V | W | X | Y |

Area Z:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60-70 | B | C | D | F | G | H | J | K | L | M | N | P |
| 70-80 | Q | | R | | S | | T | | V | | W | |
| 80-90 | X | | | | | | Y | | | | | |

For the other areas, the subdivision is as follows:

(all blocks are 10x10 degrees)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | C | D | F | G | H |
| J | K | L | M | N | P |
| Q | R | S | T | V | W |

The positions 2 through 7 contain figures.

pos 3 The block is subdivided in strokes of 1 degree latitude, numbered 0-9, from N to S.

pos 4 The block is subdivided in strokes of one tenth of the block longitude (generally 1 deg), numbered from 0-9, from W to E.

The subdivision yields boxes of 1 degree between 60 N and 60 S, and up to 1 degree lat x 18 degree long at the poles.

pos 5 The box is subdivided in strokes of 1 tenth of the box depth (6 minutes).

pos 6 The box is subdivided in strokes of 1 tenth of the box width (from 6 to 108 minutes).

This subdivision yields locations of roughly 10 kilometers squared.

pos 7 The box is subdivided in strokes of 1 tenth of the box depth (0.6 minutes).

pos 8 The box is subdivided in strokes of 1 tenth of the box width (from 0.6 to 10.8 minutes).

This subdivision yields locations of roughly 1 kilometer squared.

The figures of position 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 can be illustrated as follows

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 |
| 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 |
| 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 |
| 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 |
| 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 |
| 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 |
| 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 |

pos 9 Within a location different sites may be identified. These are indicated by a small letter.

- Letters a-l surface observing sites
- Letters m-o marine observations (moored buoys)
- Letters p-q profiler systems
- Letters r-s radar observing sites
- Letters t-w upper air observing sites
- Letters x-z reserved

By definition, the following identifiers are assigned:

- North Pole: AA999999
- South Pole: ZZ000000
- Unknown position: ZZ999999

Examples:

A radar station at 48d34mN and 67d15mW has a location identifier:

CP124735r

An upper air station at 81d42mS 124d30mE has a location identifier:

ZY167901t

A surface station at 50d00mN and 10d00mE has a location identifier:

EK000000a

A moored buoy at the equator and the 0-meridian has location indicator:

QB000000m