

AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM
Charting Group
Meeting 09-02 - October 28-29, 2009

RECOMMENDATION DOCUMENT

FAA Control # 09-02-227

Subject: Class-D Airspace Depiction on Sectional Charts

Background/Discussion : Currently an approximate 4 pt.-screened magenta circle is used to depict the D-Airspace around airports on the Sectional Charts.

(see Exhibit A attached)

This depiction, which looks like they were wall paper in a paint ball fight, not only is a distraction when eyeballing a course but also makes it difficult to read material beneath the shading.

Recommendations: Use a 2 pt. white band to show the dimensions of the D Airspace.

About 20 years ago, we recommended replacing the dark band around areas to indicate the coverage of the Terminal Area Chart Areas with a white band so that no information was obscured. This has shown to be very successful.

We recommend the same depiction concept be considered for D Airspace presentation on all color charts. A white ring stands out dramatically, yet permits clear reading of everything under it.

Comments: This recommendation affects all color charting showing D Airspace areas.

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MEETING 09-02: Mr. John Moore, FAA/AeroNav Services, briefed a recommendation to modify US VFR Sectional charts by eliminating the hypsometric tint along Class E airspace boundaries instead of using the current magenta vignette. The purpose would be to improve readability of information that is otherwise overprinted. Given the volume of Class E airspace areas on VFR Sectional Charts, the implications of this change would be very significant. There was uncertainty on whether this recommended change would have positive or negative affects. Mr. Richard Boll, NBAA, suggested an alternative might be to leave the magenta Class E airspace boundary as is, but possibly use a white mask (halo effect) around underlying

symbols / text labels that are overprinted by the Class E boundary. Another idea would be to review the specifications for placing text labels inside Class E airspace boundaries. **ACTION:** Mr. Eric Freed, FAA/AeroNav Services, agreed to investigate the potential positive or negative effects by producing prototypes which will be presented at the next ACF.

MEETING 10-01: Refer to minutes of Issue 09-02-219

ACTION: Mr. Ron Haag will bring prototype of the Washington DC TAC to the ACF for further review.

MEETING 10-02: Mr. Ron Haag, FAA/AJV-321 stated that moving the magenta text from overprinting magenta vignette is a manual effort done chart by chart and they currently move those text areas from overprinting when they can.

Refer to minutes of Issue 09-02-219.

STATUS: CLOSED