

GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY AERONAUTICAL CHARTING FORUM 04-02

October 27-28, 2004

Recommendation Document

Subject: Inappropriate activation of Class D Airspace without an active associated airport control tower.

Background/Discussion: There have been instances of a Class D Airspaces being created in the past year, which have not also had an associated active control tower established. This results in charts and the A/FD depicting the class D airspace, but no control tower information. For example, the Sectional shows the Class D Airspace outlined by a blue dashed line, but with a magenta (i.e., uncontrolled) airport symbol. This has led to confusion by pilots who understand that they are required to contact the tower prior to entering the Class D Airspace, but have no tower to contact.

This situation has occurred at the following airports during the past year:

- Donaldson, SC (GYH)
- Hilton Head, SC (HXD)
- New Smyrna Beach, FL (EVB)
- Olive Branch, MS (OLV)
- Ormond Beach, FL (OMN)
- Ramona, CA (RNM)
- St. Cloud, MN (STC)

Recommendations:

1. Do not activate Class D Airspace until the associated airport control tower can be commissioned and published in the NFDD for the same airspace effective date.
2. If recommendation 1 cannot be accomplished, then the problem Class D Airspace on charts and in the A/FD should be annotated with the note: "xxxx Class D Airspace will be activated after chart (or A/FD) publication date by NOTAM."

[Note: "xxxx" is the appropriate airport (airspace) name.]

Comments:

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04-02 MEETING: Mr. Eric Secretan, NACO, submitted this issue. Mr. Secretan stated that there have been instances of Class D airspace being created without the establishment of an associated control tower. This results in charts and the A/FD depicting the Class D airspace,

but not control tower information. The sectional charts show the Class D airspace outlined by a blue dashed line, but with a magenta, uncontrolled, airport symbol. This has led to confusion by pilots. Recommendation was made not to activate Class D airspace until the associated airport control tower can be commissioned and published in the NFDD for the same airspace effective date. Mr. Dick Powell, Aeronautical Information Services concurred. Mr. Powell stated official guidance will be issued from Ms. Sabra Kaulia to the Regional Offices to insure tower frequencies and operating hours will be published for the same effective date as the Class D. Mr. Secretan stated that if this guidance does not fix the problem NACO will add a note to its products. Mr. Powell stated the Mr. Reggie Mathews is the point of contact if additional assistance is required by NACO. **ACTION:** Aeronautical Information Services.

05-01 MEETING: Mr. Dick Powell, Aeronautical Information Services, stated official guidance was issued to the Regional Offices to insure that tower frequencies and operating hours would be published for the same effective date as the Class D. Mr. Eric Secretan, NACO, stated that currently there are no instances of Class D airspace being created without the establishment of an associated control tower. **CLOSED.**
