



Federal Aviation Administration

Memorandum

Date: January 10, 2018

To: AJV-115

From: Scott J. Gardner, Acting Manager, Emerging Technologies, AJV-115

Scott J.
Gardner

Digitally signed by
Scott J. Gardner

Date: 2018.01.10

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Subject: 14 CFR 107.41 Class E Surface Area Authorizations

In reviewing Class E Surface Area authorization requirements, we determined that the Class E authorization requirement only pertains to Class E surface areas for an airport, not the Class E extensions to Class D, C and E airspaces. 14 CFR 107.41 states: “No person may operate a small unmanned aircraft in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace or within the lateral boundaries of the surface area of Class E airspace designated for an airport unless that person has prior authorization from Air Traffic Control (ATC)”. FAA Order 7400.11B identifies the different types of Class E airspace. The only type of Class E airspace that matches the language in 107.41 is paragraph 6002, which states: “The Class E airspace areas listed below are designated as a surface area for an airport.” The others are as follows:

E1 – Class E Airspace at and above 14,500 feet MSL

E2 – Class E airspace areas designated as a surface area for an airport

E3 – Class E Airspace Areas Designated As An Extension To A Class C Surface Area

E4 – Class E Airspace Areas Designated as an Extension to a Class D or Class E Surface Area

E5 – Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward From 700 Feet Or More Above The Surface of The Earth

E6 – En route Domestic Airspace Areas

E7 – Offshore Airspace Areas

E8 – Class E Airspace Areas Designated As Federal Airways

Therefore, effective immediately, we only need to provide authorizations for Class E airspace if the airport itself is a Class E airport.

When processing applications verify that the requested airspace is listed in FAA Order 7400.11, paragraph 6200 or is indicated on a VFR sectional chart as indicated in the attachments. If the requested airspace is not listed or depicted then an authorization is not required under 14 CFR Part 107.41. The request can be cancelled and inform the applicant that an authorization is not needed for Class E extensions to Class D/C airspace.

If you have any questions please contact Scott Gardner at 202-267-8192, or email scott.gardner@faa.gov.

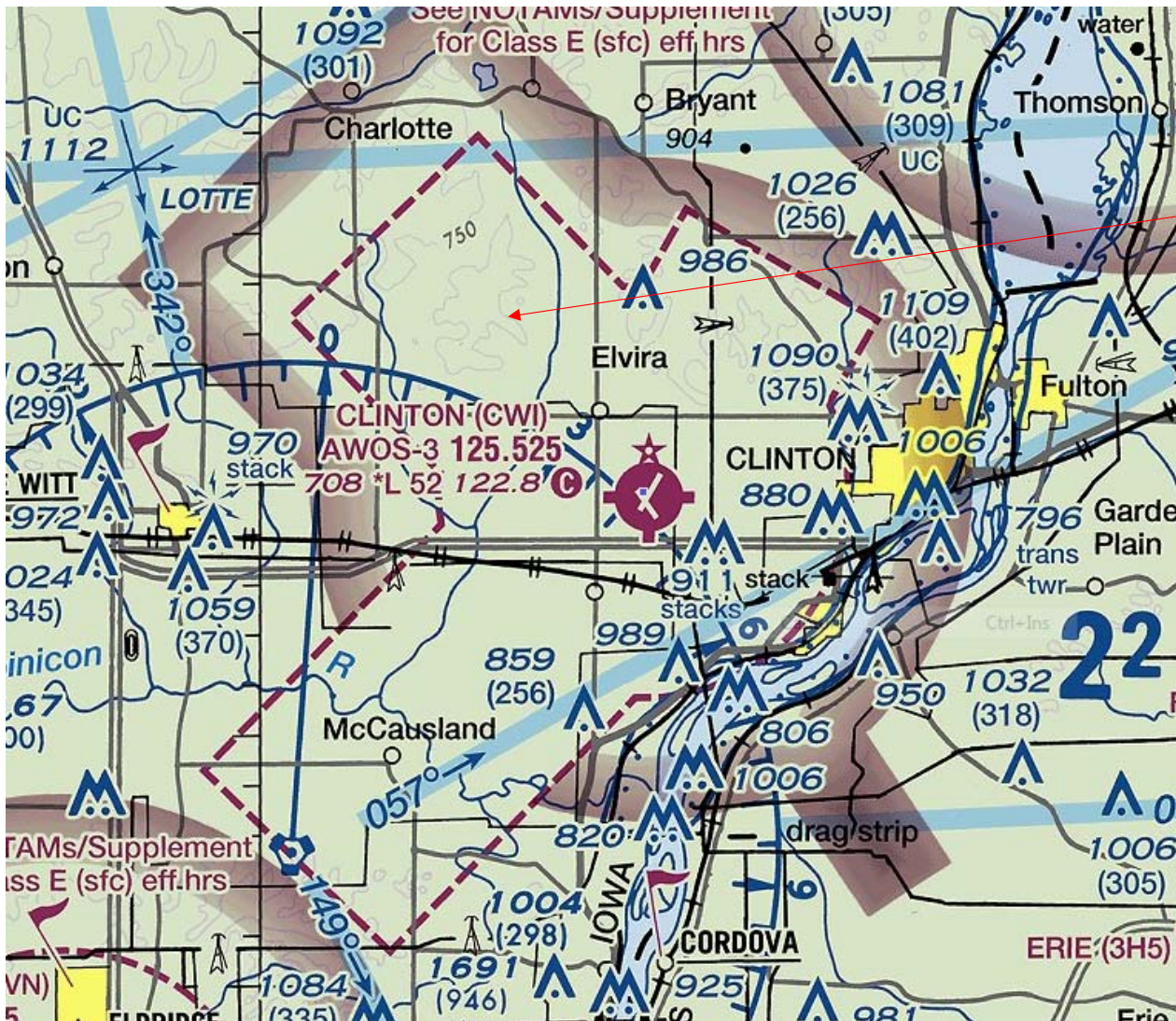
3 Attachments

Surface Area E with an extension



Would NOT need authorization

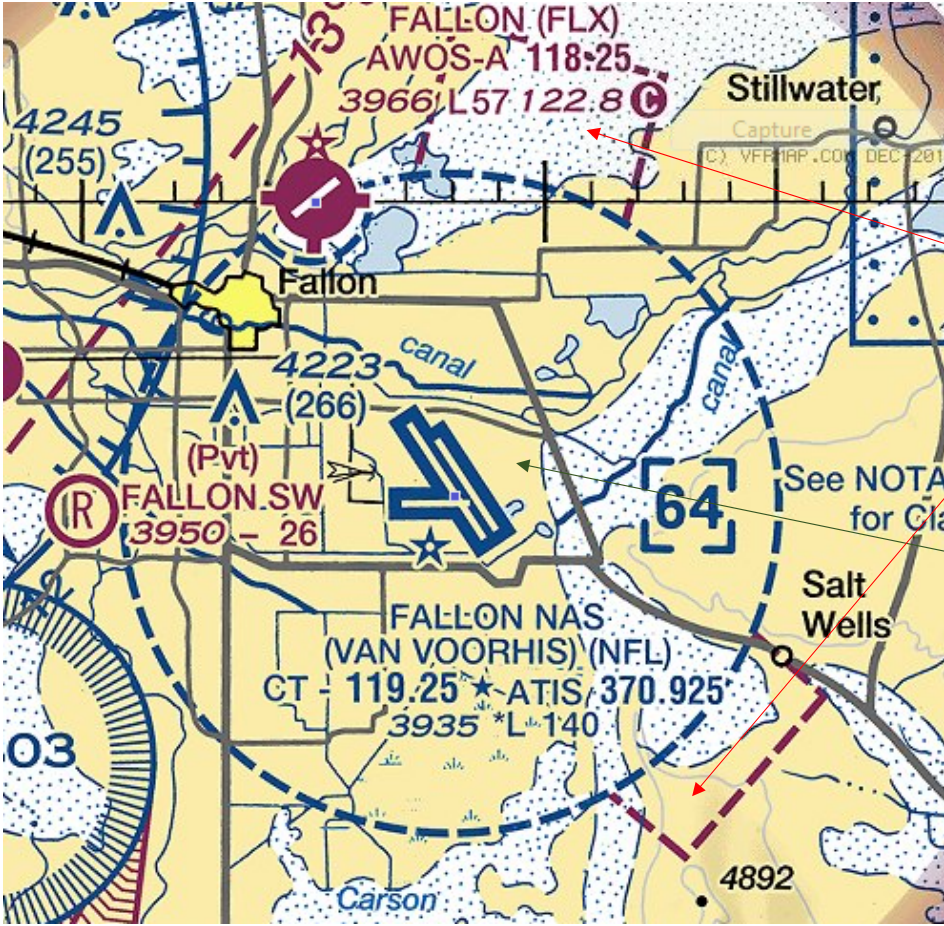
Would need authorization. Notice dashed line that separates the surface area from the extension. This is the only surface E with an extension, I think.



Surface Area E

Authorization would be needed for the entire area. Notice no dashed lines separating areas.

Class D with an extension



Would NOT need authorization

Would need authorization