

2/5/2025

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

2025-25/11-6

To: Airport Manager, Auburn University Reg'l Airport (AUO), AL, FAA (AJV-A, AAS-1) 2195929

Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, ASO-600, AAS-300, AFS-800, AFS-260, Director of Air Traffic Operations ESA South), AOPA, ASAP, ATSG, ICASS, NAFI, NTSB, Jeppesen Sanderson, Inc.

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director  
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: AUO Airport Sectional Charting

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at [becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov](mailto:becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov).



Aviation Safety Reporting System  
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



**ACN 2195929****DATE / TIME**

Date of Occurrence	202412
Local Time Of Day	0601 to 1200

**PLACE**

Locale	AUO.Airport
State	AL
Altitude - MSL	2000

**ENVIRONMENT**

Flight Conditions	VMC
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**AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X**

ATC / Advisory - Tower	AUO
Make Model Name	Small Aircraft, Low Wing, 1 Eng, Retractable Gear
Operating Under FAR Part	91

**PERSON 1**

Function - Flight Crew	Pilot Flying
Function - Flight Crew	Single Pilot
ASRS Report Number	2195929

**EVENTS**

Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Landing Without Clearance
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy
Detector - Automation	Air Traffic Control
Detector - Person	Air Traffic Control
Result - Air Traffic Control	Issued Advisory / Alert

**NARRATIVE 1**

On a VFR flight from ZZZ to AUO, I picked up the weather at Auburn about 30 miles out, informed ATC I had the weather and I was ready to cancel flight following. They told me to squawk VFR and frequency change approved. I switched to the Auburn CTAF frequency and reported my position as I approached the airport. As I was entering the downwind for Runway 36, Auburn Tower contacted me on the CTAF frequency, notified me I violated their airspace and gave me their frequency to switch to. They gave me a landing clearance and I landed without issue.

This is a flight I have made multiple times, and before the flight I updated my sectional chart and checked the airport NOTAMs before departure. At no point in that process did I realize a Tower had been added to this airport. After landing, I checked the sectional and saw that the airport is shown in class E/G airspace, with the icon being red, which indicates an untowered field. The NOTAMs do not warn that the airport is towered, but there are two NOTAMs mentioning times the Tower is closed. I must have skimmed over these because NOTAMs mentioning a Tower being closed should be irrelevant to an untowered airport.

I told the Tower Controller that my updated sectional showed the airport as untowered, and he responded that "it's on there." After reviewing it post-flight, I disagree, and I would be surprised if any VFR pilot looking at the airport on a sectional would realize it has a Tower.

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Pilot reported the VFR sectional chart does not adequately identify AUO airport as a towered airport with class D airspace.