



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR

ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AERONAUTICS BUREAU
1409 COLISEUM BOULEVARD
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36110
PHONE (334) 242-6820
FAX (334) 353-6540



John R. Cooper
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

March 23, 2021

Mr. Jed Blackwell, Executive Director
South Alabama Regional Airport
21861 Bill Benton Lane
Andalusia, Alabama 36421

Subject: Annual Inspection Report
South Alabama Regional Airport

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

An inspection of the South Alabama Regional Airport was conducted by personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on March 22, 2021. The purpose of the inspection was to update the information currently on file regarding the airport and to ascertain compliance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Department of Transportation governing licensed public-use airports within the State of Alabama.

Attached you will find a copy of the Annual Inspection Report for the airport. As noted in the report, the airport **meets** all requirements for the issuance of an operating license and the operating license is **issued** with no restrictions. There are some items noted that relate to the maintenance of the airport and should be addressed.

If you should have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions, please do not hesitate to contact the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6820.

Sincerely,

Frank Farmer
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Rans Black; FAA/ADO
Michelle Conway; Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc.
Luke Flowers; FAA/ADO

March 22, 2021



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT



SOUTH ALABAMA REGIONAL AIRPORT

ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA

**Annual Inspection Report
South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field
Andalusia, Alabama**

March 22, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	PAGE 1
INSPECTION METHODOLOGY.....	PAGE 1
LICENSE STATUS.....	PAGE 2
APPROACH / DEPARTURE PATHS.....	PAGE 2
PRIMARY SURFACE.....	PAGE 4
RUNWAY SAFETY AREA.....	PAGE 4
AIRPORT MARKINGS.....	PAGE 5
WIND DIRECTION INDICATOR.....	PAGE 7
AIRPORT LIGHTING.....	PAGE 8
RUNWAY, TAXIWAY AND APRON CONDITIONS.....	PAGE 8
FUELING AREA REQUIREMENTS.....	PAGE 9
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.....	PAGE 10
SUMMARY.....	PAGE 11
APPENDIX 1.....	PAGE 12

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

Introduction:

Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c). The department may perform such acts, issue and amend such orders and make, promulgate, or amend general or special rules, regulations, and procedures and establish minimum standards, consistent with the provisions of this article as it shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this article and to perform its duties hereunder, all commensurate with and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the general public interest, health, welfare, and safety. (Act 2000-220, 10.)

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c) an inspection of the South Alabama Regional Airport (SARA) at Bill Benton Field was conducted by Mr. Jeb Baird and Mr. Gus Slaten of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on March 22, 2021.

The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport owner from compliance with any other Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport owner to be aware of and obey all Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may have a bearing on the corrective actions that may be specified in this report.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection of the required State Approach/Departure Path and Federal Runway Protection Zones was accomplished by use of approved engineering methods and equipment. The angles, locations and heights of trees or other objects within these areas were derived by use of a theodolite and electronic distance measuring device.

All other areas of the inspection were conducted visually and photographed for reference purposes.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Design Standards referred to in this report were taken from the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) dated August 13, 2012.

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

License Status:

Code of Alabama 23-1-375(a). ...a person or municipality may not operate an airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility without a license issued by the department.

Based upon the findings of the inspection conducted on March 22, 2021, it was determined that the airport ***meets*** the requirements for the issuance of an operating license.

The inspection was conducted on the airport under the provisions of the Administrative Code for the following areas:

1. Approach and Departure Paths Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1) (See Appendix 1)

State Licensing Standards:

- For all hard surface runways the approach and departure path begins 200 feet from the runway end (runway threshold).
- The approach and departure path for all runways is centered along the extended runway centerline and extends for 1000 feet.
- The approach and departure path for all runways slopes up at a ratio of 20:1.
- All penetrations of the approach and departure paths, whether natural or manmade, constitute an obstruction to navigation and must be removed.
- The land beneath the approach and departure path must be controlled by the airport owner. This is accomplished by ownership of the property in fee simple or by written perpetual agreement with the owner of the land.

Inspection Results:

- Runway 11: No obstructions (Photo #1).
- Runway 29: No obstructions (Photo # 2).

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

Photo # 1-Runway 11



Photo # 2-Runway 29



Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

2. Primary Surface Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(2)

State Licensing Standards:

- Primary Surface (See Appendix 1): The primary surface is 250 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline and extends 200 feet past the end of the marked runway. The primary surface is required to be free of all obstructions, manmade or natural. The only allowable objects are runway lights, guidance signs, or navigation equipment that by function is required to be within the primary surface boundaries.

Inspection Results:

- The primary surface **meets** state requirements.

3. Runway Safety Area Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(3)

State Licensing Standards:

- Runway Safety Area (Appendix 1): All runways are required to maintain an obstruction free area adjacent to each runway. This area is 120 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline, and extends for a distance of 200 feet past the runway end. The area must be compacted and graded smooth with no ruts, humps, depressions or other potentially hazardous surface variations. The slope along the longitudinal centerline shall not exceed a rise or fall of three percent in elevation relative to the runway end elevation. The lip from the top of the pavement to the grade adjacent to the runway should not exceed 3 inches.

Inspection Results:

- The runway safety area **meets** state requirements.

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

4. Airport Markings Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)

State Licensing Standards:

- Airport Markings: All runways are required to be marked in a manner identifying the boundaries of the landing areas. The runway markings must be painted white and be maintained in a legible condition.

Inspection Results

- The runway markings on Runway 11 are in **poor** condition. Markings are becoming dark and gray due to some form of contamination. The contamination is either a microbial (fungal and algal) growth or dirt (See Photo #3).
- The runway markings on Runway 29 are in **good** condition; however, rubber is starting to accumulate around the centerline(See Photo #4).
- Taxiway markings on Alpha taxiway are in **fair** to **poor** condition due to fading over time(See Photo #5).

Maintenance Required:

- Clean markings. If unable to clean, markings should eventually be replaced in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M.
- Consider a rubber removal project in the future.
- Re-mark taxiways in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M.

Photo #3-Runway Markings Runway 11



Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

Photo #4-Runway 29 Rubber Accumulation



Photo #5-Taxiway Alpha Markings



Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

5. Wind Direction Indicator Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(5)

State Licensing Standards:

- Wind Direction Indicators: All airports are required to have an operational wind direction indicator. It must be installed in a highly visible area and free from obstructions to ensure true wind direction and velocity. Night operations require the indicator be lighted.

Inspection Results:

- The wind direction indicator (wind cone) is operational and in **good** condition (Photo #6).
- The segmented circle is showing signs of wear and paint has faded over time.

Maintenance Required:

- Consider repainting the segmented circle.

Photo #6 – Wind Cone



Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

6. Airport Lighting Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)

State Licensing Standards:

- Airport Lighting: Runway lights and a lighted wind direction indicator are required for night operations. A rotating beacon is suggested. All runway, threshold, and taxiway lighting shall be maintained in operational condition and shall not be obscured by natural growth such as grass and/or weeds.

Inspection Results:

- The results of the lighting system inspection is as follows:

Threshold Lights – 0 inoperative
Taxiway Lights – 7 inoperative
Runway Lights – 7 inoperative
PAPI – RWY 11 inoperative

Maintenance Required:

- Replace/repair all inoperative lights.

7. Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)

State Licensing Standards:

- Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions: All airport pavement surfaces associated with aircraft operations must be kept smooth and free of any defect or obstruction that could damage an aircraft. The lip of the airport pavement surfaces must not exceed three (3) inches in elevation from the top of the pavement to the shoulder. The drop should only be enough to allow sufficient drainage and not pose a control problem for aircraft exiting the runway. The aircraft parking apron is for the operation and parking of aircraft only and should be smooth and free of obstructions or defects that could cause damage to aircraft during operations.

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

Inspection Results:

- The runway surfaces are in **good** condition.
- The taxiway is in **fair** condition.
- The apron is in overall **good** condition; however, pavement surface south of the helicopter refueling pads and around the southern Helipad is in **poor** condition, showing signs of pavement **failure**, causing a possible Foreign Object Debris (FOD) risk to aircraft (See Photo #7).

Maintenance Required:

- Plan a pavement maintenance project for the affected surface.

Photo #7-Pavement Failure Around Southern H



8. Fueling Area Requirements Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)

State Licensing Standards:

- Signs should be posted prohibiting open flames or smoking in fueling areas. The fueling facility must be labeled indicating the type fuel being dispensed.
- Grounding cables must be available.
- A fire extinguisher approved for the purpose of extinguishing petroleum product fires available during all fueling operations.
- Serviceable hoses and connections that would preclude a rupture or leaking of fuel.

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

Inspection Results:

- All fueling areas (airport and heliport) meet the requirements established by the Alabama Department of Transportation. However, the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries may have additional requirements for fueling systems that were not considered during this inspection (See Photo #8).

Photo #8-Fueling Area



9. Prohibited Activities Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16

State Licensing Standards:

- Prohibited Activities: The use of any portion of the aircraft operations area, or airport property within the boundaries of the imaginary surfaces of a licensed airport for any purpose other than the operation of aircraft shall be deemed a non-aeronautical activity and is prohibited.

Inspection Results:

- No prohibited activities were observed during the inspection.

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

Summary:

The table below summarizes items noted in this report.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

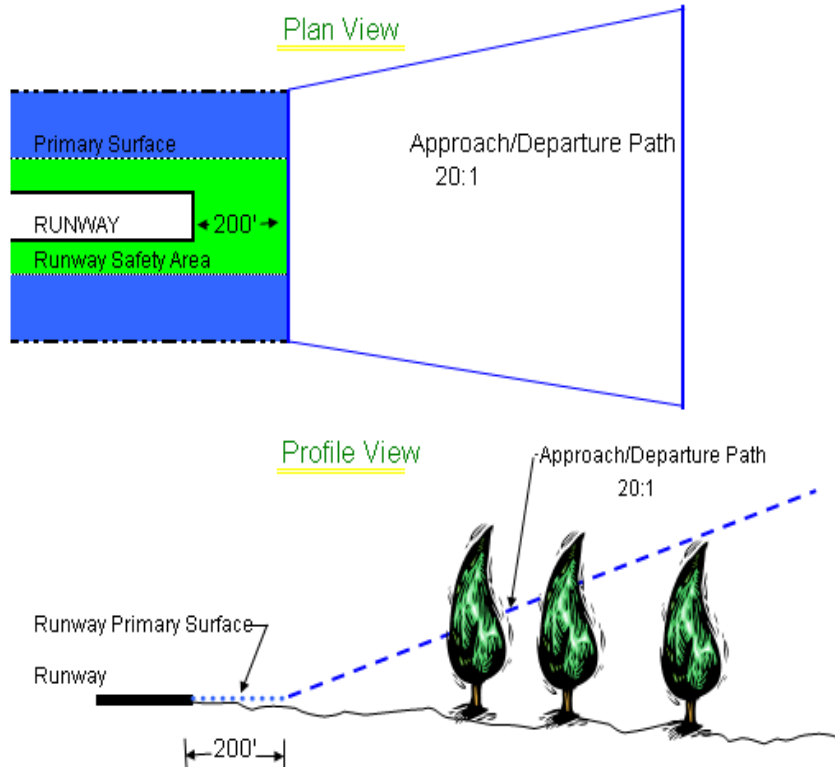
Inspection Area	Violation/Maintenance	Corrective Action
Airport Markings	Maintenance	Clean or replace obscured markings IAW AC 5340-1M. Plan rubber removal.
Wind Direction Indicator	Maintenance	Consider repainting the segmented circle.
Airport Lighting	Maintenance	Replace/repair all inoperative lights.
Runway, Taxiway, and Apron conditions	Maintenance	Plan a pavement maintenance project for the affected surface.

Please contact the Aeronautics Bureau of the Alabama Department of Transportation at (334) 242-6820 with questions concerning the Annual Inspection Report.

Annual Inspection Report South Alabama Regional Airport at Bill Benton Field Andalusia, Alabama

March 22, 2021

Approach and Departure Path Dimensions			
Inner Width	Outer Width	Length	Acreage
250 Feet	450 Feet	1,000 Feet	8.04 Acres
Primary Surface Dimensions			
250 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			
Runway Safety Area Dimensions			
120 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			



APPENDIX 1