



Figure 5-2. Dimensions of various classes of airspace.



Figure 5-3. Class G airspace.

feet or less AGL, the pilot must remain clear of clouds, and there must be one statute mile of visibility. If the operations are conducted more than 1,200 feet AGL, but less than 10,000 feet mean sea level (MSL), visibility requirements remain at one statute mile, but cloud clearances are 1,000 feet above, 500 feet below, and 2,000 feet horizontally from any cloud(s). A popular mnemonic tool used to remember basic cloud clearances is "C152," a popular fixed-wing training aircraft. In this case, the mnemonic recalls, "Clouds 1,000, 500, and 2,000."

Controlled Airspace

Controlled airspace is a generic term that covers the different classifications of airspace and defined dimensions within which ATC service is provided in accordance with the airspace classification. Controlled airspace consists of:

- Class E
- Class D
- Class C
- Class B
- Class A

Class E Airspace

Generally, if the airspace is not Class A, B, C, or D, and is controlled airspace, then it is Class E airspace. Class E airspace extends upward from either the surface or a designated altitude to the overlying or adjacent controlled airspace. [Figures 5-2 and 5-4] Also in this class are federal airways and airspace beginning at either 700 or 1,200 feet AGL used to transition to and from the terminal or en route environment. Unless designated at a lower altitude, Class E airspace begins at 14,500 MSL over the United States, including that airspace overlying the waters within 12 nautical miles (NM) of the coast of the 48 contiguous states and Alaska, up to but not including 18,000 feet MSL, and the airspace above FL 600.



Figure 5-4. Class E airspace.

There are no specific communications requirements associated with Class E airspace; however, some Class E airspace locations are designed to provide approaches for instrument approaches, and a pilot would be prudent to ensure that appropriate communications are established when operating near those areas.