

LIST OF RUS BULLETINS PROPOSED FOR RESCISSION

RUS bulletin No.	Specification No.	Date last issued	Title of standard or specification
345-13	PE-22	Jan. 1983	RUS Specification for Aerial and Underground Telephone Cable.
345-29	PE-38	Feb. 1982	RUS Specification for Self-Supporting Cable.
345-75	PE-65	Jan. 1977	RUS Specification for Electronic Trunk Circuits.
345-168	Form 538	Oct. 1977	RUS Specification for Equipment for Direct Distance Dialing.

RUS Bulletins 345-13, RUS Specification for Aerial and Underground Telephone Cable, PE-22 and 345-29, RUS Specification for Self-Supporting Cable, PE-38 specify the technical requirements for air core cables that are primarily used in aerial plant installations. With the development of filled cables having 80 degree Centigrade filling compounds, filled cables, which are primarily used for direct buried and underground plant installations, can now be used for aerial plant installations. Since filled cables provide greater service reliability than air core cables, filled cables for aerial plant installations have increased on RUS borrower construction projects. This increasing use of filled cables for aerial installations has resulted in a decline of air core cables for aerial plant construction projects. Since the use of air core cables in aerial plant construction is declining on RUS borrower projects, RUS is rescinding

both bulletins because of obsolescence. RUS borrowers may refer to 7 CFR 1755.390, RUS Specification for Filled Telephone Cables, and/or 7 CFR 1755.890, RUS Specification for Filled Telephone Cables With Expanded Insulation, for further information on filled cables.

RUS Bulletin 345-75, RUS Specification for Electronic Trunk Circuits, PE-65, is proposed for rescission because RUS trunk circuits are now digitally derived making RUS Bulletin 345-75 obsolete.

RUS Bulletin 345-168, RUS Specification for Equipment for Direct Distance Dialing, Form 538, specified the technical requirements for equipment use in direct distance dialing. Since the equipment requirements for direct distance dialing are now specified in RUS 7 CFR 1755.522, RUS General Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment, RUS Bulletin

345-168 is no longer required therefore making the document obsolete.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1755

Incorporation by reference, Loan programs—communications, Rural areas, Telephone.

For reasons set out in the preamble, RUS proposes to amend Chapter XVII of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 1755—TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

1. The authority citation for part 1755 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.* 1921 *et seq.*

§1755.97 [Amended]

2. Section 1755.97 is amended by removing the entries listed below from the table:

RUS bulletin No.	Specification No.	Date last issued	Title of standard or specification
345-13	PE-22	Jan. 1983	RUS Specification for Aerial and Underground Telephone Cable.
345-29	PE-38	Feb. 1982	RUS Specification for Self-Supporting Cable.
345-75	PE-65	Jan. 1977	RUS Specification for Electronic Trunk Circuits.
345-168	Form 538	Jan. 1977	RUS Specification for Equipment for Direct Distance Dialing.

Dated: 12-6-94.

Bob J. Nash,

Under Secretary, Rural Economic and Community Development.
[FR Doc. 95-246 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

7 CFR Part 1755

RUS General Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment (Form 522)

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to amend the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) General Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office

Equipment by eliminating the requirement for multiparty service and certain other technical aspects associated with this service. This amendment does not diminish public telephone service integrity.

DATES: Written comments must be received by RUS or postmarked no later than February 6, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Orren E. Cameron III, Director, Telecommunications

Standards Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, room 2835-S, Washington, DC 20250-1500. RUS requires a signed original and three copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.30(e)). Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27 (b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John J. Schell, Chief, Central Office Equipment Branch, Telecommunications Standards Division, Rural Utilities Service, room 2836-S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1500, telephone (202) 720-0671.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This proposed rule has been determined to be not-significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866 and therefore has not been reviewed by OMB.

Executive Order 12778

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. This proposed rule will not:

- (1) Preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule;
- (2) Have any retroactive effect; and
- (3) Require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit challenging the provisions of this rule.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

RUS has determined that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The changes to the General Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment in this proposed rule are updates which have been made so that RUS telephone borrowers can continue to provide their subscribers with the most up-to-date and efficient telephone service.

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

In compliance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR Part 1320) which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-511) and section 3504 of that Act, the information collection and recordkeeping requirements contained in this proposed rule have been approved by OMB under control number 0572-0059. Comments concerning these requirements should be directed to the Office of Information

and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for USDA, room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

National Environmental Policy Act Certification

RUS has determined that this proposed rule will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, this action does not require an environmental impact statement or assessment.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The program described by this proposed rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.851, Rural Telephone Loans and Loan Guarantees, and 10.852, Rural Telephone Bank Loans. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

Executive Order 12372

This proposed rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation. A Notice of Final rule entitled Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372 (50 FR 47034) exempts RUS and RTB loans and loan guarantees to governmental and nongovernmental entities from coverage under this Order.

Background

Since publication of the regulation on REA General Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment, the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law 103-354, 181 Stat. 3178 (Reorganization Act) has been enacted. Pursuant to the Reorganization Act the United States Secretary of Agriculture simultaneously abolished the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and established the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Rules formerly published by REA were reassigned to RUS pursuant to a final rule published in the **Federal Register** at 59 FR 66438. Therefore, this proposed rule culminating a rulemaking proceeding initiated by REA is being published by RUS.

RUS makes loans and loan guarantees to telephone systems to provide and improve telecommunications service in rural areas, as authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended,

7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, (RE Act). RUS issues construction standards and specifications for materials and equipment. In accordance with the RUS loan contract, these standards and specifications apply to facilities constructed by RUS telephone borrowers. The Rural Electrification Loan Restructuring Act of 1993 (RELRA) (107 Stat. 1356) mandates the elimination of multiparty service. This proposed rule will eliminate the requirement in 7 CFR 1755.522 for multiparty service along with features which are associated with that service such as reverting calling and multifrequency ringing.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1755

Loan programs—communications, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rural areas, Telephone.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, chapter XVII of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 1755—TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

1. The authority citation for part 1755 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, 1921 *et seq.*

2. Section 1755.522 is amended by revising paragraphs (e)(5), (e)(6), (e)(7), (e)(11), and (e)(19)(vii), removing paragraph (f)(1)(ii), redesignating paragraph (f)(1)(iii) as paragraph (f)(1)(ii), removing paragraphs (g)(2)(ii), (g)(2)(iii), (g)(8), (g)(8)(i), and (g)(8)(ii), redesignating paragraphs (g)(2)(iv) through (g)(2)(xv) as paragraphs (g)(2)(ii) through (g)(2)(xiii), and paragraphs (g)(9) through (g)(12)(iii) as paragraphs (g)(8) through (g)(11)(iii), revising paragraphs (i)(2)(ix) and (p)(1)(vi), introductory text, amending paragraph (p)(3)(i) by removing the entry "Reverting" from the table, removing paragraph (r)(6), redesignating paragraphs (r)(7) through (r)(8)(vii) as paragraphs (r)(6) through (r)(7)(vii), and revising paragraphs (s)(5)(ii)(A), (s)(5)(ii)(C), introductory text and (s)(6)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 1755.522 RUS general specification for digital, stored program controlled central office equipment.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(5) The basic switching system shall include the provision of software programming and necessary hardware, including memory, for optional custom calling services such as call waiting, call forwarding, three-way calling, and

abbreviated dialing. It shall be possible to provide these services to any individual line (single-party) subscriber. The addition of these services shall not reduce the anticipated ultimate engineered line, trunk, and traffic capacity of the switching system as specified in appendix A of this section.

(6) The requirements in this specification apply only to single party lines. Although only single frequency ringing is required, other types may be requested in appendix A of this section.

(7) Provision shall be made for local automatic message accounting (LAMA), and for traffic service position system (TSPS) trunks, or equivalent, to the operator's office when required either initially or in the future.

* * * * *

(11) Provision shall be made for hotel-motel arrangements, as required by the owner, to permit the operation of message registers at the subscriber's premises to record local outdial calls by guests (see Item 10.5, appendix A of this section).

* * * * *

(19) * * *

(vii) If the 911 service bureau is holding a calling line, it shall be possible for the 911 line to cause the equipment to ring back the calling line. This is done by providing a flash of on-hook signal from the 911 line lasting from 200 to 1,100 milliseconds. The signal to the calling line shall be ringing current if the line is on-hook, or receiver off-hook (ROH) tone if the line is off-hook.

* * * * *

(i) * * *

(2) * * *

(ix) Distinctive tone, when required for alarm calls, or other features, shall consist of high tone interrupted at 200 IPM with tone on 150 ms and off 150 ms.

* * * * *

(p) * * *

(1) * * *

(vi) The traffic capacity in the following table should be used for small trunk groups such as pay station, special service trunks, intercept, and PBX trunks, unless otherwise specified in appendix A of this section. * * *

* * * * *

(s) * * *

(5) * * *

(ii) * * *

(A) The ringing generators shall have an output voltage which approximates a sine wave and, as a minimum, shall be suitable for ringing straight-line ringers. Although not a requirement for RUS listing, decimonic, synchmonic, or

harmonic ringing may also be specified in appendix A of this section.

* * * * *

(C) The output of each generator shall have three or more voltage taps or a single tap with associated variable control. Taps or control shall be easily accessible as installed in the field. Software control of ringing generator outputs via I/O devices may be provided in lieu of taps. The taps, or equivalent, shall be designated L, M, and H. The variable control shall have a locking device to prevent accidental readjustment. The outputs at the terminals of the generators with a voltage input of 52.1 volts and rated full resistive load shall be as follows for the ringing frequencies provided. * * *

* * * * *

(6) * * *

(ii) The ringing cycle provided by the interrupter equipment shall not exceed 6 seconds in length. The ringing period shall be 2 seconds.

* * * * *

Appendix A to 7 CFR 1755.522 [Amended]

3. Appendix A to 7 CFR 1755.522 is amended by removing items 6.1.3, 6.1.4, and 6.1.5, redesignating items 6.1.6 through 6.1.16.2 as items 6.1.3 through 6.1.13.2, amending item 7.1 by removing from the table the entries "Two-party—Res", "Two-party—Bus", and "Four-party", removing items 10.2 through 10.2.1.3, and redesignating items 10.3 through 10.8.5 as items 10.2 through 10.7.5.

Appendix B to 7 CFR 1755.522 [Amended]

4. Appendix B to 7 CFR 1755.522 is amended by removing items 1.2 and 1.3 and redesignating items 1.5 through 1.9 as items 1.4 through 1.7.

Appendix C to 7 CFR 1755.522 [Amended]

5. Appendix C to 7 CFR 1755.522 is amended by revising item 3.1.3.1 to read as follows:

* * * * *

3.1.3.1 The number of directory numbers provided shall be based on the total directory numbers required (Item 6.1.11, appendix (A), as modified by the memory increment of the proposed system.

* * * * *

Dated: December 6, 1994.

Bob J. Nash,

Under Secretary, Rural Economic and Community Development.

[FR Doc. 95-247 Filed 1-4-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

49 CFR Part 214

[FRA Docket No. RSOR 13, Notice No. 2
RIN 2130-AA86]

Roadway Worker Protection

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); DOT.

ACTION: Notice of establishment of advisory committee for regulatory negotiation session and notice of first meeting.

SUMMARY: The Federal Railroad Administration is announcing the establishment of an advisory committee to develop a report including a recommended proposed rule concerning the protection of railroad employees who work on or adjacent to track and face the risk of injury from moving trains and equipment. The committee will adopt its recommendation through a negotiation process. The committee is composed of persons who represent interests affected by any rule adopted on this issue. This notice also announces the time and place of the first advisory committee meeting.

DATES: The first meeting of the advisory committee will begin at 9:30 a.m. on January 23–25, 1995.

ADDRESSES: The first meeting of the advisory committee will be held in Room 3200–3204 of the Nassif Building, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC. Subsequent meetings will be held at locations to be announced.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Beyer or Cynthia Walters, Trial Attorneys, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 8201, Washington, DC 20590 (Telephone: 202–366–0621).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Rail Safety Enforcement and Review Act, Pub. L. No. 102–365, 106 Stat. 972, enacted September 3, 1992, required FRA to review and revise its track safety standards, and to complete "an evaluation of employee safety." FRA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on November 16, 1992 (57 FR 54038) to begin the proceeding to amend the Federal Track Safety Standards (49 C.F.R. Part 213). Following publication of the ANPRM, FRA conducted a series of workshops to gather the industry's views on the need for changes to FRA's track regulations. One such workshop