

Dated: December 8, 1995.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 95-30491 Filed 12-14-95; 8:45 am]

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## Rural Utilities Service

### 7 CFR Part 1755

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

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby amends the 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.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This regulation is effective on January 16, 1996.

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This final 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 final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. This final 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 final 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 final 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 accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements contained in this final rule have been approved by OMB under control number 0572-0059. Comments concerning these requirements should be directed to the United States Department of Agriculture, Clearance Office, OIRM, room 404-W, Washington, DC 20250 or 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 final 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 final 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 final 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

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) contemplates elimination of multiparty service by telephone companies receiving RUS loans. This final rule eliminates the requirement in 7 CFR 1755.522 for multiparty service along with features which are associated with that service such as revertive calling and multifrequency ringing.

Public comments regarding the proposed rule were received from AT&T and the United States Telephone Association. These comments were taken into consideration in preparing the final rule.

1. *Comment.* One commenter stated that although there was no issue to be taken with the proposed rule as it stands, much of the remainder of RUS Form 522 is counter to the STMP requirements. The commenter recommended that all antiquated requirements be eliminated and an additional requirement be added which limits future funding by RUS to products which demonstrate available technology supporting STMP regulations.

*Response.* RUS disagrees that the Form 522 is counter to the State Telecommunications Modernization Plan requirements. Form 522 is, and has always been, intended as a basic specification. Traditionally, RUS has left development of specifications for advanced telecommunication features to other sources within the telecommunications industry. RUS believes that the industry has provided, and will continue to provide, appropriate specifications for the necessary advanced features.

2. *Comment.* One commenter commended RUS for proposing the elimination of the multiparty requirement and recommended that RUS conduct a review of all its regulations in order to identify and rescind all obsolete requirements.

*Response.* RUS continuously reviews and updates regulations to keep them as technologically current as possible.

#### 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.*; Pub. L. 103-354, 108 Stat. 3178 (7 U.S.C. 6941 *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) and (g)(8), 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) as paragraphs (g)(8) through (g)(11), revising paragraph (i)(2)(ix) and the text preceding the table in paragraph (p)(1)(vi), amending paragraph (p)(3)(i) by removing the entry "Revertive" from the table, removing paragraph (r)(6), redesignating paragraphs (r)(7) and (r)(8) as paragraphs (r)(6) and (r)(7), and revising paragraph (s)(5)(ii)(A), the text preceding the table in paragraph (s)(5)(ii)(C), and paragraph (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, synchromonic, 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

3. Appendix A to 7 CFR 1755.522 is amended by revising items 6., 7., and 10. to read as follows:

**Appendix A to 7 CFR 1755.522— Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment Detailed Requirements (Host)**

\* \* \* \* \*

6. Line Circuit Requirements (Includes all lines associated with RST's.)

6.1 Types of Lines

	No. of lines		No. of EAS areas	Total No. of lines required
	Local service only	both local and EAS service		
6.1.1 Individual—Flat Rate .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.1.2 Individual—Message Rate .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.1.3 Pay Station .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.1.4 Telephone Company Official Lines .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.1.5 Wire Chief .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.1.6 911 Emergency Service Bureau Lines .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.1.7 Number Hunting PBX Groups: .....	_____	_____	_____	_____

No. of lines in group	No. of groups	Direct in dial*	Restricted service at COE	Type		No. of lines		No. of EAS areas	Total No. of lines required
				Ground start	Loop start	Local service only	Both local and EAS service		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

\*Furnish translation information under Item 5.

- 6.1.8 WATS Lines (Give details in Appendix A, Item 16)  
 Number of Inward WATS Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Outward WATS Lines \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.1.9 Special Lines Required \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)
- 6.1.10 Total Number of Lines Required \_\_\_\_\_  
 Host \_\_\_\_\_ (Incl. DDI Concentrator Lines)  
 RST 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 RST 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 RST 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.1.11 Total Director Numbers Required \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Including RST's) (see Item 7.1, Appendix A)
- 6.1.12 Pay Station  
 Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 New \_\_\_\_\_ Reused \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Describe in Item 16, Appendix A)
- 6.1.13 Line Concentrator \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.1.13.1 Supplied by Owner (see Item 16, Appendix A, for details) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
- 6.1.13.2 Supplied by Bidder (If "Yes", attach REA Form 397g, Performance Specification for Line Concentrators) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
- 6.2. Data on Lines Required Range Extension
- 6.2.1 Number of non-pay station lines having a loop resistance, including the telephone set, as follows:
- \_\_\_\_\_ No. of lines
- 1901-3200 ohms ..... \_\_\_\_\_  
 3201-3600 ohms ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.2.2 Number of pay station lines having loop resistance, excluding the telephone set, greater than:
- \_\_\_\_\_ No. of lines
- 1200 ohms (For Prepay) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 1000 ohms (For Semi-Postpay \_\_\_\_\_ Operation).
- 6.2.3 Range extension equipment is to be provided:
- 6.2.3.1 Loop Extenders: Total Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
 By Bidder—Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
 By Owner—Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)
- 6.2.3.2 VF Repeaters: Total Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
 By Bidder—Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Bidder must have information on loading and cable size.)  
 By Owner—Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)
- 6.2.3.3 Range extension may be furnished as an extended range line circuit at the option of the supplier. If this option is used, the quantities of loop extenders and VF repeaters will be different from the quantities listed above (see Item 6.1.a, Appendix C).  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

7. Traffic Data-Line Originating and Terminating Traffic

7.1 Originating Line Traffic—Estimated per Busy Hour (Includes all Lines Associated With RST's):

	(a) CCS per Main Station	(b) No. of Main Stations	(axb) Total CCS	No. of Lines Required <sup>1</sup>
Ind.—Res .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ind.—Bus .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Special Lines .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Pay Station .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Telco Official .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Wire Chief .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
No. Htg. or PBX .....	_____ (2)	_____ (3)	_____	_____
WATS .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Data Service .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
911 Emerg. Service .....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total .....	_____	_____	_____	_____ (4)
		(c)	(d)	(e)

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A, Item 6.1.

<sup>2</sup> This figure is the CCS per PBX trunk.

<sup>3</sup> This figure is the number of PBX trunks.

<sup>4</sup> This is the total number of line equipments required. The number to be provided will be determined by the equipment design of the system of the selected bidder. See Appendix C, Item 3.1.1.2.

7.2 Average Originating CCS per Line per Busy Hour

(d)/(e) = \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ CCS/Line

This office shall be engineered to handle an initial average originating busy hour traffic of \_\_\_\_\_ CCS per line. It is anticipated that the average originating busy hour traffic will increase to \_\_\_\_\_ CCS per line.

Originating Traffic Attributed to Host Only \_\_\_\_\_ CCS/Line

7.3 Terminating Traffic—Estimated CCS per Busy Hour

It is assumed that the total CCS for terminating traffic is the same as for originating traffic. Since digital switch networks are on a terminal per line basis, the terminating CCS per line will be the same as the originating CCS per line as shown in Item 7.2, Appendix A.

Terminating Traffic Attributed to Host Only \_\_\_\_\_ CCS/Line

7.4 Percent of Pushbutton Lines \_\_\_\_\_

7.5 Anticipated Ultimate Capacity (20 years)

7.5.1 Subscriber Lines

Host \_\_\_\_\_ (Incl. DDI Concentrator Lines)  
 RST 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 RST 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 RST 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

10. Miscellaneous Operating Features

10.1 Busy Verification

10.1.1 By dedicated trunk from toll operator: \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.1.1.1 One-Way, Inward \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.1.1.2 Two-Way (Busy verification inward, intercept outward) \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.1.2 By prefix digit over intertoll trunk \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Indicate digit(s) dialed) \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.1.3 Access by Switchman  
 10.1.3.1 Dedicated Trunk \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.1.3.2 Multiple of Operator Trunk \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.2 Intercept Facilities  
 10.2.1 Vacant code, disconnected number, and unassigned number intercept shall be: (Check One)  
 By recorded announcement:  
 Without cut-through to operator \_\_\_\_\_  
 With cut-through to operator \_\_\_\_\_  
 By operator \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.2.2 Changed number intercept shall be: (Check One)

By recorded announcement:  
 Without cut-through to operator \_\_\_\_\_  
 With cut-through to operator \_\_\_\_\_  
 By operator \_\_\_\_\_  
 By automatic intercept system (AIS) in distant office \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.2.3 Method of Reaching Operator, if required:  
 Separate trunk group \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regular interoffice toll trunks with idle trunk selecting over at least three trunks when three or more toll trunks are equipped \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.2.4 Number of separate intercept trunk circuits \_\_\_\_\_  
 10.3 Line Load Control  
 10.3.1 Line load control facilities are: \_\_\_\_\_ Required \_\_\_\_\_ Not Required (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)  
 10.4 Service Observing Facilities  
 10.4.1 Service observing facilities are: \_\_\_\_\_ Required \_\_\_\_\_ Not Required

(Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)  
 10.5 Hotel-Motel Arrangements  
 10.5.1 Hotel-motel arrangements for operation of message registers at the subscriber's premises are:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Required \_\_\_\_\_ Not Required (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)  
 10.5.1.1 How are message registers to be activated?  
 Line Reversal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Third Wire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)  
 10.6 Nailed-Up Connections  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Required \_\_\_\_\_ Not Required (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)  
 10.7 Vertical Services: (RST Lines are Included)

10.7.1 Call Waiting—No. of Lines .....  
 10.7.2 Call Forwarding—No. of Lines .....  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_ Remote  
 (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A).  
 10.7.3 Abbreviated Dialing No. of Lines .....  
 No. of Codes per Line \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Lines  
 No. of Codes per Line \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Lines  
 10.7.4 Three-Way Calling—No. of Lines .....  
 CCS Per Line .....

Initially Ultimate  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

10.7.5 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Explain in Item 16, Appendix A)  
 \* \* \* \* \*

Dated: October 30, 1995.  
 Jill Long Thompson,  
 Under Secretary, Rural Economic and Community Development.  
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 BILLING CODE 3410-15-P—M

formula used to distribute funds among the States under the Program.

**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 1.4 through 1.9 as items 1.2 through 1.7, respectively.

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

**Appendix C to 7 CFR 1755.522— Specifications for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment Detailed Requirements— Bidder Supplied Information**

\* \* \* \* \*

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

**10 CFR Part 440**

[Docket No. EE-RM-94-401]

**Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons**

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) is publishing a rule finalizing amendments to the regulations for the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons that changed the

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 15, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Reamy, Weatherization Assistance Program Division, U.S. Department of Energy, Mail Stop EE-532, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 426-1698.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DOE issued an interim final rule on June 5, 1995 (60 FR 29469) that amended the formula used to distribute funds among the States under the Weatherization Assistance Program. Those changes were based on direction in the Conference Report on the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1995 which accompanied Public Law 103-332. DOE received no comments on the interim final rule. Accordingly, the interim final rule is adopted as a final rule without change.

List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 440  
 Definitions and allocation of funds.