

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 205

[TM-98-00-2]

National Organic Program; Extension of Comment Period on Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of comment period on the National Organic Program proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is extending the public comment period on the proposed rule to establish a National Organic Program (NOP) from March 16, 1998 to April 30, 1998. This proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on December 16, 1997.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this proposal to: Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator, USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, Room 4007 South Building, Ag Stop 0275, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Comments also may be sent by fax to (202) 690-4632. Additionally, comments may be sent via the Internet through NOP's homepage at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>. See the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for further details on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael I. Hankin, Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist, USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, Room 2510 South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202) 690-3924.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose

A proposed rule to establish a NOP was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 65849) on December 16, 1997. The program is proposed under the

Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 *et. seq.*), which requires the establishment of national standards governing the marketing of certain agricultural products as organically produced to facilitate commerce in fresh and processed food that is organically produced and to assure consumers that such products meet consistent standards. This program would establish national standards for the organic production and handling of agricultural products, which would include a National List of synthetic substances approved for use in the production and handling of organically produced products. It also would establish an accreditation program for State officials and private persons who want to be accredited to certify farm, wild crop harvesting, and handling operations that comply with the program's requirements, and a certification program for farm, wild crop harvesting, and handling operations that want to be certified as meeting the program's requirements. The program additionally would include labeling requirements for organic products and products containing organic ingredients, and enforcement provisions. Further, the proposed rule provides for the approval of State organic programs and the importation into the United States of organic agricultural products from foreign programs determined to have requirements at least equivalent to those of the NOP.

Submission of Comments

Comments may be submitted, electronically, in writing or by fax. Written comments submitted by regular mail and faxed comments should be identified with the National Organic Program Proposed Rule Docket Number: TMD-94-00-2. Multiple page comments submitted by regular mail should not be stapled or clipped to facilitate the timely scanning and posting of these comments to NOP homepage. Persons submitting written or faxed comments are requested to identify the topic and section number, if applicable, to which the comment refers: for example, for a comment regarding feed for organic livestock, reference Livestock and section 205.13. Topics should be selected from the following list: General, Proposed Effective Date, Regulatory Impact

Assessment, Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, Paperwork Reduction Act, Definitions, Applicability (section 205.3), Crops, Livestock, Handling, National List, Labeling, Certification, Accreditation, State Programs, Fees, Compliance, Appeals, and Equivalency.

It is our intention to have all comments, whether mailed, faxed or submitted via the Internet, available for viewing the NOP homepage at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop> in a timely manner. Comments submitted in response to this proposal will be available for viewing at USDA-AMS, Transportation and Marketing, Room 2945-South Building, 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except official Federal holidays). Persons wanting to visit Department of Agriculture, South Building to view comments received in response to this proposal are requested to make an appointment in advance by calling Martha Bearer at (202) 720-8037.

Reasons for Granting an Extension

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), an advisory board to the Secretary regarding the program, has requested an extension of the comment period. NOSB requested an extension to accommodate the timing of the next NOSB meeting, which NOSB intends to conduct during the week of March 16-20, 1998. The schedules of the individual members of NOSB prevented holding NOSB meeting prior to March 15. At the meeting, details of which will be announced shortly in the **Federal Register**, NOSB intends to review Committee reports and prepare NOSB comments to the proposed rule for submission to USDA.

Others have also requested an extension of the comment period. These individuals and organizations include: State government officials, manufacturers, and a trade organization representing the organic industry. Examples of reasons given for requesting an extension of the comment period include the length and complexity of the proposed rule, and the time required for commenters to arrange and conduct listening sessions to obtain input from constituents who will be affected by the final regulations.

After careful consideration of the requests submitted to the Agency, AMS has decided to grant an extension of the

comment period for an additional 45 days, or until April 30, 1998. This extension of the comment period will provide interested persons a total of 135 days to review the proposed rule and submit comments. AMS believes that this 45 day extension will provide a sufficient period of time for all commenters so that a further extension would be unnecessary.

Accordingly, AMS is extending the comment period on the NOP proposed rule until April 30, 1998.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6501-6522.

Dated: February 5, 1998.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 98-3285 Filed 2-5-98; 11:09 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-NM-151-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Saab Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes. This proposal would require repetitive inspections for excessive wear of the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys located at the rear wing spars, and corrective actions, if necessary. This proposal also would require repetitive replacement of the control cables and cable guides with new or serviceable components. This proposal is prompted by the issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to detect and correct excessive wear on the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys located at the rear wing spars, which could result in broken aileron control cables and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-NM-151-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Saab Aircraft AB, Saab Aircraft Product Support, S-581.88, Linköping, Sweden. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue SW, Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2110; fax (425) 227-1149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 97-NM-151-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No.

97-NM-151-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Luftfartsverket (LFV), which is the airworthiness authority for Sweden, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain Saab Model SAAB 2000 series airplanes. The LFV advises that it has received reports of excessive wear of the aileron control cables at the positions of the cable guides located at the rear wing spars. The cause of this wear has been attributed to chafing that occurred between the cables and the cable guides. Such wear, if not detected and corrected in a timely manner, could result in broken aileron control cables and consequent reduced controllability of the airplane.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

Saab has issued Service Bulletin 2000-27-033, dated April 29, 1997, which describes procedures for repetitive inspections for excessive wear of the aileron control cables, cable guides, and cable pulleys located at the rear wing spars, and corrective actions, if necessary. These corrective actions include replacement of discrepant cables, cable guides, and pulleys with serviceable parts; and rotation of the cable pulleys to ensure that the bearings are not damaged. The service bulletin also describes procedures for repetitive replacement of the control cables and cable guides with new or serviceable control cables and cable guides. The LFV classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued Swedish airworthiness directive SAD No. 1-111, dated April 30, 1997, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Sweden.

FAA's Conclusions

This airplane model is manufactured in Sweden and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of § 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the LFV has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the LFV, reviewed all available information, and determined that AD action is necessary for products of this type design that are certificated for operation in the United States.