

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.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Parts 100 and 114

[Notice 1998-8]

Definition of "Member" of a Membership Association

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Federal Election Commission is announcing a public hearing on proposed changes to its rules defining who qualifies as a "member" of a membership association.

DATES: The hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 1998. Requests to testify must be received on or before April 6, 1998. Persons requesting to testify also must submit written comments by April 6, 1998, if they have not previously filed written comments on the proposed rules.

ADDRESSES: Requests to testify, and any accompanying comments, should be addressed to Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, and must be submitted in either written or electronic form. Written requests and comments should be sent to the Commission's postal service address: Federal Election Commission, 999 E St. N.W., Washington, DC 20463. Faxed requests and comments should be sent to (202) 219-3923. Commenters submitting faxed material also should submit a printed copy to the Commission's postal service address to ensure legibility. Requests to testify and comments also may be sent by electronic mail to "members@fec.gov". Persons sending requests and comments by electronic mail should include their full name, electronic mail address and postal service address within the text of the request and comments. Commission hearings are held in the Commission's ninth floor meeting room, 999 E St. N.W., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, or Ms. Rita A. Reimer, Attorney, 999 E Street N.W.,

Washington, DC 20463, (202) 219-3690 or (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 22, 1997, the Commission published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") seeking comments on proposed revisions to its rules defining who qualifies as a "member" of a membership association. 62 FR 66832. The NPRM announced that a hearing would be held on the proposed rules if the Commission received sufficient requests to testify.

To date the Commission has received several requests to testify at such a hearing. After considering these requests and the other comments received to date in response to the NPRM, the Commission believes a public hearing would be helpful in considering the issues raised in this rulemaking. The hearing will be held on 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 1998.

Dated: February 27, 1998

Joan D. Aikens,

Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-5612 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-SW-06-AD]

Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model SA 330F, G, and J Helicopters

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 Eurocopter France Model SA 330F, G, and J helicopters. This proposal would require verifying the torque on the nut that secures the two transformer-rectifiers' common ground; and subsequently installing a modification to separate the grounds of the two transformer-rectifiers. This proposal is prompted by a report from the airworthiness authority of France about an unsafe condition resulting from the loss of the common ground of the two

transformer-rectifiers. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent loss of the common ground of the two transformer-rectifiers, which could result in a complete electrical failure (essential and secondary), loss of electrically-powered instrumentation, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-SW-06-AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. 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 American Eurocopter Corporation, 2701 Forum Drive, Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-4005. This information may be examined at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert McCallister, Aerospace Engineer, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137, phone (817) 222-5121, fax (817) 222-5961.

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 should 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 No. 97-SW-06-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, Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97-SW-06-AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137.

Discussion

The Direction Generale De L'Aviation Civile (DGAC), which is the airworthiness authority for France, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on Eurocopter France Model SA 330F, G, and J helicopters. The DGAC advises that there have been reports of the loss of the common ground of the two transformer-rectifiers caused by loss of clamping torque on the nut that secures the common ground.

Eurocopter France has issued SA 330 Service Bulletin No. 01.53, Revision 1, dated March 13, 1997, which specifies checking the tightness of the transformer-rectifiers common ground nut, as well as installing a modification to separate the grounds. The DGAC classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued AD No. 96-173-077(B)R1, dated April 23, 1996 (effective date May 3, 1997), in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these helicopters in France.

This helicopter model is manufactured in France and is type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the DGAC has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the DGAC, 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.

Since an unsafe condition has been identified that is likely to exist or develop on other Eurocopter France

Model SA 330F, G, and J helicopters of the same type design registered in the United States, which do not have Modification 0725580 or 0725681 installed, the proposed AD would require, within 10 hours time-in-service (TIS) after the effective date of this AD, ensuring that the nut, part number (P/N) 22541N080, that secures the common ground of the transformer-rectifiers is properly torqued; and, within 500 hours TIS after the effective date of this AD, installing Eurocopter France modification (MOD) No. 0725580 or 0725681 to separate the grounds of the two transformer-rectifiers. Installation of the applicable modification is considered a terminating action for the requirements of this AD. The actions would be required to be accomplished in accordance with the service bulletin described previously.

The FAA estimates that 1 helicopter of U.S. registry would be affected by this proposed AD, that it would take approximately 0.5 work hour to verify or accomplish the retorquing of the nut, 2 work hours per helicopter to accomplish the proposed modifications, and that the average labor rate is \$60 per work hour. Required parts for the modification would cost approximately \$70 per helicopter. Based on these figures, the total cost impact of the proposed AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$220.

The regulations proposed herein would not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this proposal would not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this proposed regulation (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under the DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A copy of the draft regulatory evaluation prepared for this action is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained by contacting the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding a new airworthiness directive to read as follows:

Eurocopter France: Docket No. 96-SW-06-AD.

Applicability: Model SA 330F, G, and J helicopters, certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each helicopter identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For helicopters that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must use the authority provided in paragraph (c) to request approval from the FAA. This approval may address either no action, if the current configuration eliminates the unsafe condition, or different actions necessary to address the unsafe condition described in this AD. Such a request should include an assessment of the effect of the changed configuration on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD. In no case does the presence of any modification, alteration, or repair remove any helicopter from the applicability of this AD.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent loss of the common ground of the two transformer-rectifiers, which could result in a complete electrical failure (essential and secondary), loss of electrically-powered instrumentation, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter, accomplish the following:

(a) Within 10 hours time-in-service (TIS), ensure that the nut, part number (P/N) 22541N080, that secures the common ground of the transformer-rectifiers is properly torqued in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Eurocopter France SA 330 Service Bulletin No. 01.53R1, dated March 13, 1997.

(b) Within 500 hours TIS, install Eurocopter France Modification No. 0725580 or 0725681, as applicable, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Eurocopter France SA 330 Service Bulletin No. 01.53R1, dated March 13, 1997. Installation of Modification No. 0725580 or 0725681, as applicable, is considered a terminating action for the requirements of this AD.

(c) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that

provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, Rotorcraft Directorate, FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may concur or comment and then send it to the Manager, Rotorcraft Standards Staff.

Note 2: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Rotorcraft Standards Staff.

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the helicopter to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Note 3: The subject of this AD is addressed in Direction Generale De L'Aviation Civile (France) AD 96-173-077(B)R1, dated April 23, 1996.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 26, 1998.

Eric Bries,

*Acting Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-5734 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration

15 CFR Part 960

Licensing of Private Remote-Sensing Space Systems

AGENCY: National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public Hearing.

SUMMARY: On November 3, 1997, the National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proposed regulations revising its regime for the licensing of private remote sensing space systems under Title II of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, 15 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.* (1992 Act) (62 FR 59317). As part of this rulemaking, NOAA is sponsoring a public meeting to solicit comments from the public on the proposed rule.

DATES: The Public Meeting will be held on April 1, 1998, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a lunch break from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the United States Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 4830, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Parties interested in participating in the public meeting, particularly those that would like to present oral and/or written testimony, should contact Charles

Wooldridge or Kira Alvarez (See **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by March 27, 1998. Comments received to date in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) may be viewed and/or copied by appointment from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at NOAA, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, 1315 East West Highway, Rm 3620 Silver Spring, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Wooldridge, NOAA, National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, (301) 713-2024 x 107 or Kira Alvarez, NOAA, Office of General Counsel, (301) 713-1329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 3, 1997, NOAA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (62 FR 59317) proposing regulations revising its regime for the licensing of private Earth remote-sensing space systems under Title II of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, 15 U.S.C. 5601 *et seq.* (1992 Act). These proposed regulations implement the licensing provisions of the 1992 Act and the Presidential Policy on remote sensing announced March 10, 1994. NOAA is sponsoring this public meeting to solicit comments on the proposed rule.

Parties are encouraged to bring a copy of their proposed oral testimony. Due to time constraints, NOAA may have to limit the length of oral statements on some of the topics. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- 8:00-8:30 Registration and Coffee
- 8:30-9:00 Welcome and Introduction
- 9:00-10:00 General
 - § 960.1 Purpose
 - § 960.2 Scope
 - § 960.3 Definitions
- 10:15-12:00 Procedures
 - § 960.4 Pre-application Consultation
 - § 960.5 Filing Information
 - § 960.6 Information to be included in an Application
 - § 960.7 Confidentiality of Information
 - § 960.8 Review Procedures for License Applications
 - § 960.13 Amendment to Licenses
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-4:00 National Security, Foreign Policy and Investment Agreements
 - § 960.9 Conditions for Operations [subsections (b), (c), (g)]
 - § 960.10 National Security, International Obligations, and Foreign Policy
 - § 960.12 Notification of Foreign Agreements
 - § 960.14 Investment Agreements
- 4:00-5:00 Other
 - § 960.9 Conditions for Operations [subsections (a), (d) (e), (f), (h), (i)]

- § 960.11 Data Policy
- § 960.15 Certain Rights not Conferred
- § 960-16-20 Enforcement Procedures

5:00 Closing Remarks

Dated: March 2, 1998.

Robert S. Winokur,

Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services.

[FR Doc. 98-5744 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

17 CFR Part 230

[Release No. 33-7511; File No. S7-5-98]

RIN 3235-AG21

Rule 701—Exempt Offerings Pursuant to Compensatory Arrangements

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The current dollar limitations on the amount of securities that may be offered and sold under the Commission's Rule 701 under Securities Act of 1933 which provides an exemption from registration for such securities pursuant to compensatory benefit arrangements may be too restrictive. Therefore, we propose to amend these limitations to permit companies greater access to the exemption if certain disclosure requirements are satisfied.

DATES: Public comments should be received on or before May 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please send three copies of the comment letter to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can send comments electronically to the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. The comment letter should refer to File No. S7-5-98; if e-mail is used please include the file number in the subject line. Anyone can inspect and copy the comment letters at our Public Reference Room, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. We will post comment letters submitted electronically on our Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard K. Wulff (202-942-2950), Office of Small Business, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549.