

# 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

### Rural Utilities Service

#### 7 CFR Part 1755

#### Form 552, RUS General Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is proposing to amend its regulations on Telecommunications Standards and Specifications for Materials, Equipment and Construction to change RUS General Specification for Digital, Stored Program Controlled Central Office Equipment, RUS Form 522, Part I through Part VI. This will enable RUS to incorporate technological advances, remove requirements that are no longer necessary, and generally update the specification to reflect current technology.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by RUS, or bear a postmark or equivalent, no later than June 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed to John J. Schell, Chief, Central Office Equipment Branch, Telecommunications Standards Division, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1598, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1598. RUS requests an original and three copies of all comments (7 CFR part 1700). All comments received will be available for public inspection at Room 2838 South Building (address as above) 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, STOP 1598, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1598, telephone number (202) 720-0671. E-Mail: jschell@rus.usda.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

RUS Form 522 provides a performance specification for digital switching equipment and gives RUS borrowers assistance in ordering digital switches. Significant changes have been made in the telecommunications industry over the last several years. Notable advances in central office switching equipment and technology have made many new services available.

Because the existing Form 522 does not address many of these changes, RUS is requesting comments on all parts of Form 522. Technological advances have caused many of the Form 522 requirements to be outdated and many new requirements have not been addressed. To address new technology as well as remove outdated or irrelevant requirements, RUS feels that it is important to have input from many borrowers, consultants, and manufacturers, to make the Form 522 as technologically up-to-date as possible.

Dated: March 31, 1998.

**Wally Beyer,**

*Administrator, RUS.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98-SW-04-AD]

#### Airworthiness Directives; Lucas Air Equipment Electric Hoists

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the adoption of a new AD that is applicable to Lucas Air Equipment electric hoists (hoists) installed on, but not limited to, all models of Eurocopter France SA-360 and SA-365 helicopters. This proposal would require visually inspecting the cable for damage before the next hoist operation, blanking (plugging) the electronic control box upper vent, and performing an end-of-travel procedure during each hoist event. This proposal is prompted by several incidents of

cable failures caused by dynamic overload on the winding-up limit due to uncontrolled excessive speed of the cable, which is normally regulated by the automatic speed-reducing mechanism or the operator. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent breaking of the cable, which could become entangled with a main rotor or tail rotor blade, and result in damage or separation of a rotor blade, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 11, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 98-SW-04-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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Carroll Wright, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Rotorcraft Standards Staff, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137, phone (817) 222-5120, 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.