

# 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

RIN 0572-AB41

#### Special Equipment Specifications

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

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

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is proposing to amend its regulation on RUS Telecommunications Standards and Specifications for Materials, Equipment and Construction to add to RUS Form 397, Special Equipment Contract (including installation). This action will amend the Special Equipment Specifications which include RUS Form 397b, Trunk Carrier System Specifications; RUS Form 397c, Subscriber Carrier Specifications; RUS Form 397d, Design Specifications for Point-to-Point Microwave Radio Systems; RUS Form 397e, Design Specifications for Mobile and Fixed Dial Radio Telephone Equipment; RUS Form 397g, Performance Specifications for Line Concentrators; and RUS Form 397h, Design Specifications for Digital Lightwave Transmission Systems. Changes to the Special Equipment Specifications will incorporate the latest technology, remove redundant or outdated requirements, and simplify specification format.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by RUS, or bear a postmark or equivalent, no later than September 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed to Gary B. Allan, Chief, Transmission Branch, Telecommunications Standards Division, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1598, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1598. RUS requests an original and three copies of all comments (7 CFR part 1700.4). All comments received will be

available for public inspection at room 2838 South Building (above address) during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27 (b)).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melanie L. Umstead, Transmission Branch, Telecommunications Standards Division, Rural Utilities Service, STOP 1598, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1598, telephone number (202) 720-0665, fax (202) 720-4099, e-mail mumstead@rus.usda.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

RUS is considering replacing RUS Form 397b, Trunk Carrier System Specifications; RUS Form 397c, Subscriber Carrier Specifications; RUS Form 397d, Design Specifications for Point-to-Point Microwave Radio Systems; RUS Form 397e, Design Specifications for Mobile and Fixed Dial Radio Telephone Equipment; RUS Form 397g, Performance Specifications for Line Concentrators; and RUS Form 397h, Design Specifications for Digital Lightwave Transmission Systems with two (2) specifications.

One specification will address wireline systems and the other will address wireless systems. The wireline systems specification will address lightwave systems, digital and analog carrier systems, concentrators and related wireline technologies. The wireless systems specifications will address microwave radio systems, wireless local loop systems and other wireless technologies. These specifications will address the latest advances in telecommunications systems and recognize new technologies. The specifications will also recognize established industry standards by removing outdated requirements and incorporating new relevant requirements. RUS is requesting comments from RUS borrowers, consulting engineers, manufacturers and any other interested bodies on recommended changes for special equipment specifications to ensure rural telecommunications networks continue to provide reliable and progressive telecommunications services without an undue burden to the parties involved.

Dated: June 24, 1998.

**Jill Long Thompson,**

*Under Secretary, Rural Development.*

[FR Doc. 98-17747 Filed 7-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 94-SW-23-AD]

#### Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. Model 214B and 214B-1 Helicopters

**ACTION:** Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM); reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This document revises an earlier proposed airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. (BHTI) Model 214B and 214B-1 helicopters, that would have established a mandatory retirement life of 15,000 high-power events for the pillow block bearing bolts (bearing bolts). That proposal was prompted by fatigue analyses and tests that show certain bearing bolts fail sooner than originally anticipated because of the unanticipated high number of lifts and takeoffs (torque events) performed with those bearing bolts in addition to the time-in-service (TIS) accrued under normal operating conditions. This action revises the proposed rule by proposing the creation of a component history card using a Retirement Index Number (RIN) system, establishment of a system for tracking increases to the accumulated RIN, and establishment of a maximum accumulated RIN for the bearing bolts. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to prevent fatigue failure of the bearing bolts, which could result in failure of the main rotor system and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before September 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 94-SW-23-AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. Comments may be inspected at this location