

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.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 537

RIN 3206-AJ33

Repayment of Student Loans

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is proposing regulations implementing the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, to authorize Federal agencies to repay federally insured student loans when necessary to recruit or retain highly qualified personnel.

DATES: Written comments will be considered if received no later than May 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver written comments to Richard A. Whitford, Acting Associate Director for Employment, Office of Personnel Management, Room 6500, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael J. Mahoney, (202) 606-0830 (FAX 202-606-0390).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 amended 5 U.S.C. 5379. These amendments: Remove the restriction of this incentive to professional, technical, or administrative personnel; remove the limitation of this incentive to employees covered under General Schedule pay rates; broaden the types of loans which qualify under this part under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Public Health Service Act; require agencies to report annually to OPM on their use of this incentive; and require OPM to report annually to Congress on agencies' use of this incentive. These regulations reflect the amendments to 5 U.S.C. 5379.

The repayment authority is one of several flexibilities made available to

agencies when trying to attract individuals to the Federal service, or retain highly qualified personnel. The proposed regulations benefit both agencies and employees by expanding the flexibility of this existing incentive.

The proposed regulations amend the following: Purpose, Definition of Employee, Definition of Student Loan, and Records and Reports.

Purpose

This incentive may be used for employees in occupational series other than professional, technical, or administrative positions.

Definition of Employee

This incentive may be used for employees covered under non-General Schedule (GS) pay rates, providing the non-GS employee meets the other criteria specified under this part.

Definition of Student Loan

The proposed regulations expand the type of loans which qualify for this incentive to include: Subsidized, unsubsidized, Direct subsidized, and Direct unsubsidized Federal Stafford loans; Federal and Direct Federal Plus loans; Direct subsidized, Direct unsubsidized, and Federal Consolidation loans; Defense loans; National Direct Student Loans; Perkins Loans; Nursing Student Loan Program loans; Health Profession Student Loan Program loans; and Health Education Assistance Loan Program loans.

Records and Reports

Agencies will be required to report annually to OPM on their use of this incentive. Agencies must report to OPM: The number of employees selected to receive this benefit; the job classifications of the employees selected to receive this benefit; and the cost for providing this benefit. Cost is the total amount of student loans repayments, not the administrative costs associated with administering the program.

E.O. 12866, Regulatory Review

This rule has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities

because it affects only certain Federal employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 537

Administrative practice and procedure, Government employees, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

Steven R. Cohen,

Acting Director.

Accordingly, OPM proposes to amend part 537 to Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 537—REPAYMENT OF STUDENT LOANS

1. The authority citation for part 537 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5379.

2. Section 537.101 is revised to read as follows:

§ 537.101 Purpose.

This part provides regulations to implement 5 U.S.C. 5379, as amended, which authorizes agencies to establish a program under which they may agree to repay (by direct payment on behalf of the employee) all or part of any outstanding federally insured student loan or loans previously taken out by a candidate to whom an offer of employment has been made, or a current employee of the agency, in order to recruit or retain highly qualified personnel.

3. In § 537.102 the definitions of *Employee* and *Student loan* are revised to read as follows:

§ 537.102 Definitions.

* * * * *

Employee has the meaning given that term in 5 U.S.C. 2105, except it does not include an employee occupying a position which is excepted from the competitive service because of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy advocating character (i.e., employees serving under Schedule C appointments).

* * * * *

Student loan means —

(a) A loan made, insured, or guaranteed under parts B, D or E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; or

(b) A health education assistance loan made or insured under part A of title VII of the Public Health Service Act, or under part E of title VIII of that Act.

4. In § 537.110 the section heading is revised, the existing text is designated as paragraph (a), and paragraph (b) is added to read as follows:

§ 537.110 Records and Reports.

* * * * *

(b) Before January 1st of each year, each agency must submit a written report to the Office of Personnel Management stating when the agency made student loan repayments on behalf of an employee during the previous fiscal year. Each report must include:

(1) The number of employees selected to receive this benefit;

(2) The job classifications of the employees selected to receive benefits under this part; and

(3) The cost to the Federal government for providing benefits under this part.

[FR Doc. 01-6514 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-38-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket Number EE-RM/TP-97-440]

RIN 1904-AA46

Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period and rescheduling of public hearing.

SUMMARY: On January 22, 2001, the Department of Energy published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NOPR) (66 FR 6768) to revise the test procedures for central air conditioners and heat pumps. The notice of proposed rulemaking announced that the closing date for receiving public comments would be March 23, 2001. The Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) requested that the comment period be extended to allow additional time for understanding the lengthy revisions to the test procedures. The Department agrees to this extension of the comment period to May 23, 2001. The NOPR also announced that a public workshop (hearing) would be held on February 7, 2001. ARI requested that this date be changed to allow more time

for preparation. The public workshop is now scheduled for March 29, 2001.

The proposed rule stated that there would be a workshop in the spring of 2001 to discuss modifications to the test procedure to encourage the use of thermostatic expansion valves (TXVs), and to discuss a standard mixed system rating method. This workshop will be held immediately following the proposed test procedure rulemaking workshop, in the same room, on the afternoon of the same date (March 29). The outcome of this second workshop will have no effect on this proposed test procedure rulemaking.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 23, 2001. The public workshop (hearing) on the proposed test procedure rulemaking will be held on March 29, 2001, in Washington, DC. The workshop on TXVs and mixed system rating methods will immediately follow, on the same date. Please send requests to speak at the workshop so that we receive them by 4 p.m., March 20, 2001. The Department must also receive ten (10) copies of statements to be given at the public workshop no later than 4 p.m., March 21, 2001, and we request that you provide a computer diskette (WordPerfect 8) of each statement at that time.

ADDRESSES: Please submit written comments and requests to speak at the public hearing to: Michael Raymond, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Hearings and Dockets, Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners Including Heat Pumps, Docket No. EE-RM-97-440, EE-41, Room 1J-018, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. You may send an email to: michael.raymond@ee.doe.gov. The hearing will be at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-245, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Raymond at (202) 586-9611, E-mail: michael.raymond@ee.doe.gov, or Eugene Margolis, Esq., (202) 586-9507, E-mail: Eugene.Margolis@HQ.DOE.GOV.

Issued in Washington DC, on March 12, 2001.

Abraham E. Haspel,

Acting Director, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 01-6570 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 25

[Docket No. NM185; Notice No. 25-01-02-SC]

Special Conditions: Enhanced Vision System (EVS) for Gulfstream Model G-V Airplane

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed special conditions.

SUMMARY: This notice proposes special conditions for Gulfstream Model G-V airplanes. These airplanes, as modified by Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, will have novel or unusual design features associated with a head-up display (HUD) system modified to display forward-looking infrared (FLIR) imagery. The regulations applicable to pilot compartment view do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for this design feature. These proposed special conditions contain the additional safety standards that the Administrator considers necessary to establish a level of safety equivalent to that provided by the existing airworthiness standards.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments on these special conditions may be mailed in duplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Transport Airplane Directorate, Attention: Rules Docket (ANM-114), Docket No. NM185, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; or delivered in duplicate to the Transport Airplane Directorate at that address. All comments must be marked: *Docket No. NM185*. Comments may be inspected in the Rules Docket weekdays, except Federal holidays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Dunford, FAA, Transport Standards Staff, ANM-111, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, 1601 Lind Avenue SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2239; fax (425) 227-1100; e-mail: dale.dunford@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of these proposed special conditions by submitting such written data, views, or arguments, as they may desire. Communications should identify the