

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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 319

[Docket No. 02–032–1]

Environmental Impact Statement for the Importation of Wood Packaging Material

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, scope of study, and notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement in connection with regulations we are considering regarding the importation of wood packaging material. This notice identifies potential alternatives and issues that we plan to examine in the environmental impact statement, requests public comment to further delineate the scope of the alternatives and issues, and provides notice of public meetings.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before September 13, 2002. We will also consider comments made at public hearings that will be held in Washington, DC, on September 3, 2002, beginning at 10 a.m., and in Long Beach, CA, on September 5, 2002, beginning at 1 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. (two sessions).

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 02–032–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737 1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02–032–1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your

comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and “Docket No. 02–032–1” on the subject line.

The September 3, 2002, public hearing will be held at the USDA South Building, Jefferson Auditorium, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. The September 5, 2002, public hearing will be held at the Hilton of Long Beach, 701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Harold Smith, Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental Services, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238; (301) 734–6742.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is planning to amend its regulations on the importation of logs, lumber, and other unmanufactured wood articles to decrease the risk of wood packaging material (*e.g.*, crates, dunnage, wooden spools, pallets, and packing blocks) introducing exotic plant pests into the United States. Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), we are required to consider the potential environmental effects of our proposed actions and alternatives. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of our intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), to advise the public of the schedule for two public meetings, and to solicit public comments on the scope of the environmental issues to be examined in the EIS.

The regulations in 7 CFR 319.40–1 through 319.40–11 (referred to below as the regulations) are intended to mitigate the plant pest risk presented by the importation of logs, lumber, and other unmanufactured wood articles, including wood packaging material (WPM). Introductions into the United States of exotic plant pests such as the pine shoot beetle and the Asian longhorned beetle have been linked to the importation of WPM. Recently, the emerald ash borer has been found in five counties in Michigan. These and other plant pests that could be carried by imported WPM pose a serious threat to U.S. agriculture and to natural, cultivated, and urban forests.

In 1998, we took regulatory action to require that WPM from China be heat treated, fumigated, or treated with preservatives prior to arrival in the United States. This action has decreased interceptions of pests associated with WPM from China. However, since then, a number of factors, including increased international trade, additional interceptions of serious exotic plant pests in WPM from other countries, and the adoption by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of international standards to mitigate pest risk from WPM, have demonstrated the need for the United States to take further measures to mitigate the pest risk from WPM from other countries.

In addition to establishing the necessary framework for protecting U.S. agriculture and forests, we must give full consideration to harmonizing our regulations with the new international standards (the “International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures—Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Materials in International Trade,” Publication 15 of the Secretariat of the IPPC of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, 2002).

The continually increasing risk of invasive exotic plant pest species imparts a degree of urgency to our development of regulations to mitigate risk from the importation of WPM. Therefore, our rulemaking and environmental processes are being undertaken at an accelerated rate. This is entirely consistent with regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1501.8(b)). We anticipate that the proposed rule we publish will provide advance notice to industry of specific regulatory

requirements that may be made final and implemented within 30 days of the publication of a final rule.

We are requesting public comment to help us identify and/or confirm potential alternatives and environmental issues that should be examined in the EIS. We have identified five broad alternatives that we plan to consider in the EIS, as follows:

- Take no action. This would be characterized as no change in the existing regulations that apply to the importation of WPM (while not contributing to the further mitigation of risk, the analysis of the no action alternative provides a baseline and is required by NEPA and its implementing regulations);
- Apply the same requirements concerning WPM from China to WPM from the rest of the world (*i.e.*, require WPM imported from any part of the world to be heat treated, fumigated, or treated with preservatives prior to arrival in the United States);
- Implement a comprehensive risk reduction program (more expansive than the regulations currently applying to China or provided for under the new international standards). This would be categorized as a broad risk mitigation strategy that involves various options such as increased inspection, heat treatment, fumigation, wood preservatives, irradiation, controlled atmosphere, selective prohibition, and disposal;
- Adopt the new international standards and apply their methods (heat treatment at 56 °C for 30 minutes, fumigation with methyl bromide, and marking of WPM) to all countries; and
- Require the use of substitute materials that are not hosts of plant pests or diseases (*e.g.*, metal, rubber, or fiberglass).

We will examine the potential effects on the human environment of each alternative. We also are interested in comments that identify other issues that should be examined in the EIS. Potential issues could include new treatment methods, logistical considerations, environmental regulations and constraints, and harmonization of regulatory efforts.

Comments regarding the proposed scope of the EIS are welcome and will be considered fully. When the draft EIS is completed, a notice announcing its availability and an invitation to comment on it will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Done in Washington, DC, this 8th day of August 2002.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 02-20523 Filed 8-13-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2002-CE-07-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Beech Models 36, A36, A36TC, B36TC, 58, and 58A Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes to supersede Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2000-26-16, which applies to certain Raytheon Aircraft Company (Raytheon) Beech Models A36, B36TC, and 58 airplanes. AD 2000-26-16 currently requires you to inspect for missing rivets on the right hand side of the fuselage and, if necessary, install rivets. AD 2000-26-16 resulted from Raytheon identifying several instances of missing rivets on these airplanes. AD 2000-26-16 incorporated an incorrect listing of serial numbers for the affected model airplanes and omitted certain airplane models from the applicability section of AD 2000-26-16. This proposed AD would retain the actions required in AD 2000-26-16 and correct the applicability section. The actions specified by this proposed AD are intended to detect and correct missing rivets in the right hand fuselage panel assembly in the area above the right wing and below the cabin door threshold. These rivets must be present for the fuselage to carry the ultimate load and prevent critical structural failure with loss of airplane control.

DATES: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must receive any comments on this proposed rule on or before October 18, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2002-CE-07-AD, 901 Locust, Room 506, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. You may view any comments at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

You may also send comments electronically to the following address: 9-ACE-7-Docket@faa.gov. Comments sent electronically must contain "Docket No. 2002-CE-07-AD" in the subject line. If you send comments electronically as attached electronic files, the files must be formatted in Microsoft Word 97 for Windows or ASCII text.

You may get service information that applies to this proposed AD from Raytheon Aircraft Company, 9709 E. Central, Wichita, Kansas 67201-0085; telephone: (800) 429-5372 or (316) 676-3140. You may also view this information at the Rules Docket at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: T.N. Baktha, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Wichita Aircraft Certification Office, 1801 Airport Road, Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita, Kansas 67209; telephone: (316) 946-4155; facsimile: (316) 946-4407.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

How Do I Comment on This Proposed AD?

The FAA invites comments on this proposed rule. You may submit whatever written data, views, or arguments you choose. You need to include the rule's docket number and submit your comments to the address specified under the caption **ADDRESSES**. We will consider all comments received on or before the closing date. We may amend this proposed rule in light of comments received. Factual information that supports your ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the effectiveness of this proposed AD action and determining whether we need to take additional rulemaking action.

Are There Any Specific Portions of This Proposed AD I Should Pay Attention To?

The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this proposed rule that might suggest a need to modify the rule. You may view all comments we receive before and after the closing date of the rule in the Rules Docket. We will file a report in the Rules Docket that summarizes each contact we have with the public that concerns the substantive parts of this proposed AD.

How Can I Be Sure FAA Receives My Comment?

If you want FAA to acknowledge the receipt of your mailed comments, you must include a self-addressed, stamped