

653, and 1501–1571, the effects of this regulation on state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector have been assessed. This regulation will not compel the expenditure in any one year of \$100 million or more by state, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector. Therefore, a statement under 2 U.S.C. 1532 is not required.

List of Subjects

5 CFR Part 1630

Privacy.

5 CFR Part 1632

Sunshine Act.

5 CFR Part 1650

Alimony, Claims, Government employees, Pensions, Retirement.

Ravindra Deo,

Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the FRTIB proposes to amend 5 CFR Chapter VI as follows:

PART 1630—PRIVACY ACT REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a.

■ 2. Amend § 1630.4 by revising paragraph (a)(2) to read as follows:

§ 1630.4 Request for notification and access.

(a) \* \* \*

(2) Participants may also inquire whether this system contains records about them and access certain records through the account access section of the TSP website and the ThriftLine (the TSP's automated telephone system). The TSP website is www.tsp.gov. To use the TSP ThriftLine, the participant must have a touch-tone telephone and call (877) 968-3778. Information such as account balance and transaction status is available on the TSP website and the ThriftLine. To access these features, the participant may be required to verify his or her identity by providing identifying particulars.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. Amend § 1630.7 by revising paragraph (c)(3) to read as follows:

§ 1630.7 Identification requirements.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(3) A participant may also access the TSP website or call the TSP ThriftLine to obtain account information. These systems may require identity and account verification information and

may require the participant to verify his or her identity by providing identifying particulars.

PART 1632—RULES REGARDING PUBLIC OBSERVATION OF MEETINGS

■ 4. The authority for this citation continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552b and 8474.

■ 5. Amend § 1632.4 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 1632.4 Meetings open to public observation.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) The annual Board meeting schedule will be maintained on frtib.gov. In addition, agency announcements of meetings open to public observation will be published in the Federal Register. Requests for announcements may be made by telephoning or by writing to the Office of External Affairs, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, 77 K Street NE, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20002.

PART 1650—METHODS OF WITHDRAWING FUNDS FROM THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN

■ 6. The authority citation continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8351, 8432d, 8433, 8434, 8435, 8474(b)(5) and 8474(c)(1).

■ 7. Amend § 1650.14 by revising paragraph (g)(4) to read as follows:

§ 1650.14 Annuities.

\* \* \* \* \*

(g) \* \* \*

(4) Either a single life or joint (with spouse) life annuity with increasing payments. This annuity provides monthly payments to the participant only, or to the participant and spouse, as applicable. The monthly payments are increased once each year on the anniversary of the first payment by a fixed rate of 2 percent. If the participant chooses a joint life annuity, the annual 2 percent increase also applies to benefits received by the survivor.

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2019-27068 Filed 12-16-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 66

[Document No. AMS-FTPP-19-0104]

National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard; Validation of Refining Processes

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments and feedback on draft instructions for validation of refining processes as it pertains to the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (Standard).

DATES: Comments are due by January 16, 2020.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit written comments via the internet at http://www.regulations.gov. All comments should refer to the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register. All comments submitted in response to this notice, including the identity of individuals or entities submitting comments, will be made available to the public on the internet via http://www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trevor Findley, Deputy Director, Food Disclosure and Labeling Division, Fair Trade Practices Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, telephone (202) 690-3460, email trevor.findley@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 29, 2016, Public Law 114-216 amended the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et. seq.) (amended Act) to require USDA to establish a national, mandatory standard for disclosing any food that is or may be bioengineered. In accordance with the amended Act, USDA published final regulations to implement the Standard on December 21, 2018 (83 FR 65843). The regulations became effective on February 19, 2019, with a mandatory compliance date of January 1, 2022.

Foods that do not contain detectable modified genetic material are not bioengineered foods and do not require disclosure under the Standard. Under the definition of bioengineered food at 7 CFR 66.1, food does not contain modified genetic material if the genetic material is not detectable pursuant to § 66.9. The recordkeeping requirements for detectability at 7 CFR 66.9 specify the requirements for validating that a

refining process renders modified genetic material in a food undetectable. A refining process is validated through analytical testing that meets the standards described in paragraph (c) of 7 CFR 66.9. Paragraph (c) requires that analytical testing meet the following standard: (1) Laboratory quality assurance must ensure the validity and reliability of test results; (2) analytical method selection, validation, and verification must ensure that the testing method used is appropriate (fit for purpose) and that the laboratory can successfully perform the testing; (3) the demonstration of testing validity must ensure consistent accurate analytical performance; and (4) method performance specifications must ensure analytical tests are sufficiently sensitive for the purposes of the detectability requirements of this part.

In the preamble to the final regulations, USDA indicated it would provide instructions to the industry to explain how they can ensure acceptable validation of refining processes in accordance with AMS standards (83 FR 65843). A draft of those instructions is now available on the AMS bioengineered food disclosure website at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/be>. With this notice, AMS is seeking comments on these draft instructions. USDA will provide further instructions on testing method selection at a later date. At this time, we are only seeking feedback on the validation instructions referenced in this notice. Any comments not directly related to these draft instructions will not be considered.

After reviewing the comments on these draft instructions, AMS will publish final instructions on its website. The final instructions will be maintained and available on the AMS website. These final instructions pertain to the requirements of the existing regulations, which can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/12/21/2018-27283/national-bioengineered-food-disclosure-standard>.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 1639.

Dated: December 10, 2019.

**Bruce Summers,**

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2019-26911 Filed 12-16-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2019-1053; Product Identifier 2018-SW-037-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Helicopters

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

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

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Robinson Helicopter Company Model R44 and R44 II helicopters with an agricultural spray system installed by Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SR00286BO (spray system). This spray system is also known as a Simplex Manufacturing Company (Simplex) Model 244 spray system. This proposed AD was prompted by a report of an in-flight failure of the spray system elbow pump fitting (pump fitting). This proposed AD would require repetitive inspections of the spray system pump fitting, corrective action if necessary, replacement of the spray system pump fitting, and installation of hose supports and a pump outlet cover. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** The FAA must receive comments on this proposed AD by January 31, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this NPRM, contact Simplex Manufacturing Company, 13340 NE Whitaker Way, Portland, OR 97230; phone 503-257-3511; fax 503-257-8556; internet [www.simplex.aero](http://www.simplex.aero). You may view this service information at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Pkwy., Room 6N-321, Fort Worth, TX

76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 817-222-5110.

#### Examining the AD Docket

You may examine the AD docket on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2019-1053; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Bonar, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe Section, FAA, Seattle ACO Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone and fax: 206-231-3521; email: [Christopher.Bonar@faa.gov](mailto:Christopher.Bonar@faa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under the **ADDRESSES** section. Include "Docket No. FAA-2019-1053; Product Identifier 2018-SW-037-AD" at the beginning of your comments. The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this NPRM. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this NPRM because of those comments.

The FAA will post all comments received, without change, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information you provide. The FAA will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

#### Discussion

The FAA proposes to adopt a new AD for Robinson Helicopter Company Model R44 and R44 II helicopters with an agricultural spray system installed by STC SR00286BO with spray systems serial-numbered 0045 through 0178 inclusive. STC SR00286BO approves the installation of a Simplex spray system. This proposed AD would require a repetitive inspection until the pump fitting is modified.

This proposed AD is prompted by a report of an in-flight failure of the spray system pump fitting. Following the issuance of a Simplex service letter, five