

# 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.

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## GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

### 4 CFR Part 21

#### General Accounting Office, Administrative Practice and Procedure, Bid Protest Regulations, Government Contracts

**AGENCY:** General Accounting Office.

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

**SUMMARY:** The General Accounting Office (GAO) is soliciting comments on how its bid protest procedures can be revised in order to facilitate GAO's meeting a new statutory deadline for issuing decisions, while also improving the overall effectiveness of the bid protest process at GAO. GAO is reviewing, and will be revising, its Bid Protest Regulations in light of the requirement in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 that GAO issue bid protest decisions within 100 calendar days from the time a protest is filed at GAO.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before March 22, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to: Michael R. Golden, Assistant General Counsel, General Accounting Office, 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20548.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael R. Golden (Assistant General Counsel) or Linda S. Lebowitz (Senior Attorney), 202-512-9732.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, Pub. L. 104-106, which was enacted on February 10, 1996, requires GAO, effective August 8, 1996, to issue bid protest decisions within 100 calendar days from the time a protest is filed at GAO, shortening the current 125-calendar-day requirement. GAO will revise its bid protest regulations to comply with this new deadline. GAO is inviting public participation in the revision process by soliciting comments on how it should revise its regulations both in order to

facilitate meeting the new timeliness requirement and to improve the overall effectiveness of the GAO bid protest process.

On January 31, 1995, GAO published a proposed rule (60 FR 5871) implementing the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (FASA), Pub. L. 103-355, 108 Stat. 3243, dated October 13, 1994, and reflecting the practice that had evolved at GAO with respect to protective orders and hearings. On August 10, 1995, GAO published a final rule (60 FR 40737).

In comments on the proposed rule, several commenters suggested that GAO revise its timeliness rules to permit the timely filing of a protest 5 calendar days after the new statutorily required debriefing, that is, concurrent with the new requirements for obtaining a stay and independent of the time from which the protester may otherwise have learned of a basis of protest. In adopting the final rule, GAO did not consider this change to its timeliness rules because it believed that the recommendation warranted an opportunity for public comment. GAO invites comments on this recommended change to its timeliness rules in light of the new, shorter statutory period for resolving bid protests and the debriefing requirements contained in FASA and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996.

In light of the new, shorter statutory period for resolving bid protests, GAO also invites suggestions addressing the feasibility of promoting the early production of documents in appropriate cases. GAO notes that since October 1995, parties have frequently agreed to early document production, resulting in the expeditious resolution of these protests including dismissals and withdrawals of the protests in whole or in part.

In addition, GAO welcomes the submission of ideas regarding the appropriate length of regulatorily imposed deadlines, including the time periods for filing supplemental protests, comments, and supplemental document requests, as well as suggestions concerning the use of accelerated or alternative procedures to more expeditiously resolve bid protests. GAO anticipates publishing a proposed rule for public comment on or before May 1, 1996.

Comments with respect to this advance notice of proposed rulemaking should reference file number B-259187.2. Comments may be filed by hand delivery or mail at the address in the address line, or comments may be filed by facsimile transmission at 202-512-9749.

Robert P. Murphy,  
*General Counsel.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96-NM-35-AD]

#### Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model 382 Series Airplanes

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Lockheed Model 382 series airplanes, that currently requires a revision to the Airplane Flight Manual to require takeoff operation in accordance with revised performance data. That AD also requires installation of certain valve housings for the propeller governor on the outboard engines. This proposal would revise the applicability of the existing AD to remove certain airplanes. This proposal also would revise references to a certain replacement part number of a valve housing. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to ensure that the airplane maintains adequate thrust decay characteristics in the event of critical engine failure during takeoff.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by March 11, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96-NM-35-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00