and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2535–S, Washington, DC 20090–6456; fax (202) 205–2800. Three copies of all written material should be submitted, and they will be made available for public inspection at the Research and Promotion Branch during regular business hours. All comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sonia N. Jimenez, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2535–So., Washington, D.C. 20090–6456; telephone (202) 720–9915.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposed rule is issued under the Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act, as amended [104 Stat. 3904, 7 U.S.C. 4601 *et seq.*], hereinafter referred to as the Act.

This proposed rule has been issued in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. It is not intended to have retroactive effect. This rule would not preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 10 of the Act, a person subject to an order may file a petition with the Secretary stating that such order, any provision of such order, or any obligation imposed in connection with such order is not in accordance with law; and requesting a modification of the order or an exemption from the order. Such person is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing, the Secretary would rule in the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which such person is an inhabitant, or has a principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review the Secretary's ruling on the petition, provided that a compliant is filed within 20 days after the date of entry of the ruling.

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this action on small entities.

There are an estimated 145 handlers, 510 producer-packers, 8,300 producers, and 350 importers who are currently subject to the provisions of the Order. The majority of these persons may be classified as small agricultural producers and small agricultural service firms. Small agricultural producers are defined by the Small Business Administration [13 CFR 121.601] as those having annual receipts of less than $500,000, and small service firms are defined as those having annual receipts of less than $5 million.

The Administrator of the AMS has determined that this rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act [44 U.S.C. Chapter 35], and OMB regulations [5 CFR Part 1320], the information collection and recordkeeping requirements contained in this action have been previously approved under OMB control number 0581–0093.

Background

The Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order (Order) provides that each producer and importer shall pay to the Board a one cent per pound assessment rate on honey and honey products produced in or imported into the United States. Section 1240.5 of the Order defines honey products as products wherein honey is a principal ingredient.

In order for the U.S. Customs Service (Customs) to collect the assessments on imported honey and honey products, each product needs to be identified by an HTS Code. Since the Board inception, honey has been assessed by Customs under HTS code number 0409.00.00. However, there were no HTS codes for honey products.

The Board has identified flavored honey as a product containing approximately 99 percent honey. The Board estimates that 500,000 pounds of flavored honey are imported into the United States annually without the importer paying the required assessment. Therefore, at the recommendation of the Board, the Department requested the Committee for Statistical Annotation of Tariff Schedules (Committee) on the International Trade Commission to establish an HTS code for flavored honey. The Committee notified the Department on February 13, 1996, that a code has been established for flavored honey. The purpose of this rule is to add the new HTS code for flavored honey to the rules and regulations under the Order to provide authority for Customs to collect the assessment on all imported, flavored honey.

This proposed rule would add the new 2106.90.9988 HTS code for flavored honey to section 1240.115(e) of the rules and regulations issued under the Order. Flavored honey would be assessed at the one-cent-per-pound rate. A conversion factor is not necessary because the amount of honey in flavored honey is estimated at 99 percent of the total product. Customs will notify importers 60 to 90 days before it begins collecting the assessment on flavored honey. The notification will be made only after a final rule, if any, is issued on this action.

A 60-day comment period is provided to allow interested persons to respond to this proposal. All written comments timely received will be considered before a final determination is made on this matter.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1240

Advertising, Agricultural research, Honey, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR Part 1240 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 1240—HONEY RESEARCH, PROMOTION, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ORDER

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR Part 1240 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 4601–4612

2. In § 1240.115, paragraph (e) is revised to read as follows:

§ 1240.115 Levy of assessments.

* * * * *

(e) The U.S. Customs Service (USCS) will collect assessments on all honey or honey products where honey is the principal ingredient imported under its tariff schedule (HTS heading numbers 0409.00.00 and 21006.90.9988) at the time of entry or withdrawal for consumption and forward such assessment as per the agreement between the USCS and USDA. Any importer or agent who is exempt from payment of assessments pursuant to § 1240.42 (a) and (b) of the Order may apply to the Board for reimbursement of such assessment paid.

* * * * *

Dated: March 21, 1996.

Eric M. Forman,

Deputy Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 96–7441 Filed 3–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Part 104

[Notice 1996–10]

Electronic Filing of Reports by Political Committees

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Federal Election Commission is seeking comment on proposed rules to implement an electronic filing system for reports of campaign finance activity filed with the agency. Although the agency has been working on the development of an electronic filing sytem for some time, the proposals in this Notice are also designed to reflect recent changes in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. The proposed rules would establish requirements for filing reports electronically, including specifying the format for data to be submitted by filers, procedures for submitting amendments to reports, and methods of satisfying signature requirements under the law.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 28, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be in writing and addressed to: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463, (202) 219–3690 or (800) 424–9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 28, 1995, Public Law 104–79 amended the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require, *inter alia,* that the Commission create a system to ''permit reports required by this Act to be filed and preserved by means of computer disk or any other electronic format or method, as determined by the Commission.'' 109 Stat. 791(1995), section 1(a). The new law requires this system to be available for reports covering periods after December 31, 1996. This means the new system will be in place for the first reports filed in the 1998 election cycle. The goals of such a system include more complete on line access to reports on file with the Commission, reduced paper filing and manual processing, and more efficient and cost-effective methods of operation for filers and for the Commission. Note that participation in the electronic filing program by committees and other persons filing reports will be voluntary.

There are a number of factors that should be considered before any system can be successfully implemented. The information must be submitted in a standardized format so that the Commission's computer system can read the information and locate all the different data elements that are part of a committee's report. At the outset, the Commission plans to accept reports filed electronically, store them, and make them available to the public. The information will then be processed by the Commission in the same manner as paper reports (i.e. creating paper copies for review and integration into the disclosure data base). Ultimately, the electronically filed material will be directly integrated into the Commission's data bases. While most electronic filing systems developed at the state and local level have required submission of paper reports along with electronic media, the FEC process does not include this requirement. In fact, committees choosing to file electronically would have to include all information found in a report in the electronic data submitted. When paper copies of reports are necessary for processing, the Commission will create those documents.

(Note: However, that certain forms and schedules have special requirements that may require submission of a paper copy under proposed paragraph (f).)

It is also important, however, that the system be designed in a fashion that allows committees to comply most easily with the Act's requirements. Thus, the Commission is developing methods for complying with statutory requirements such as submitting a report signed by the committee's treasurer, and to accommodate, for example, the need to file amendments to reports or to explain more fully certain transactions included on a committee's report. However, certain schedules and forms require signatures of third parties or submission of additional materials such as loan agreements. The Commission will need to design the format structure to include the information provided on these forms and schedules, but will also need a mechanism to meet the additional requirements of these documents.

The system being designed by the Commission will be available to all committees required to file reports with the Commission that wish to file in an electronic format. Public Law 104–79 changed the place of filing for committees that formerly filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. These committees, as well as those that have historically filed with the Commission, will have the opportunity to file under the new system. Proposed section 104.18 will set forth the requirements for electronic filing. Please note that committees that are required to file reports with the Secretary of the Senate will not be covered by the Commission's new rules.

The Commission welcomes comments from committees that will be affected by this change. Vendors with knowledge of the software concerns that might be involved in implementing such a system, and state and local jurisdictions that have had experience with electronic filing, are also encouraged to participate. Finally, end-users of campaign finance information, such as researchers and the media, may wish to offer their suggestions from a consumer's perspective.

Interested persons should also note that the Commission will be developing its record format specifications in a separate process at the same time it is considering these rules. Software vendors and committees that wish to comment or make suggestions regarding the format specifications should contact the Data Systems Division to be included on the list of those consulted.

Standard Format

Several different standardization issues are presented by the Commission's proposal. A key requirement is that any data submitted electronically be conveyed in the Commission-approved format. The agency has dealt with these concerns previously in the context of publicly financed presidential candidates and convention committees. To address those situations, the Commission issued its Computerized Magnetic Media Requirements (CMMR), which established format specifications for certain computerized data submitted by these committees. The CMMR specifies the record format for submitting data; that is, it specifies the ''fields'' (required information) that make up the records and how much space is allocated for each field of data. There are separate fields for receipt and disbursement records, consistent with the Act's reporting provisions.

A similar set of requirements is being developed for electronic filing of reports. These requirements will be contained in a document titled ''The Federal Election Commission's Electronic Filing Specifications Requirements.'' As previously noted, the format specifications will be made available to interested persons for comment and suggestions as they are being developed. When completed, this document will be available from the Commission at no charge.

Another set of issues relates to the steps that will be necessary to integrate

the reports filed into the Commission's data base. Currently, the Commission uses the reports to enter certain selected data into its computer data base. For the most part, this data is limited to totals from the committees' summary pages, and information on contributions and independent expenditures. When the Commission first implements its electronic filing program in 1997, it expects to continue its cross-indexing of information from all reports, including those filed electronically. In addition, the Commission will maintain reports filed electronically in a separate data base, in order to preserve a record of what has been filed by each reporting entity. A copy of these records will be accessible on-line.

In the future, the Commission intends to structure its program so that the data submitted by reporting entities will be in a form that can be directly added to the agency's data base. This development may require the specification of standards for reporting certain categories of information, in order to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the Commission's current data base. This will ensure, for example, that all contributions made by PACs to a particular candidate are reported in the same way so they can be accurately attributed in the Commission's data base to that candidate. Currently, the Commission ensures that the correct recipient is identified in the data base, even though reporting entities may have described the recipient in slightly different ways. The Commission may also wish to establish a standard list of purposes for reported disbursements, which could in turn be based on the expense classifications used in a chart of accounts. Both of these issues could be addressed by making updated lists available through the Internet that could be downloaded by committees. Information from these lists could then be moved into reports, simplifying the reporting process for committees.

Acceptance of Reports Filed Electronically

A related issue addressed by the proposed rules concerns the need to ensure that reports filed electronically can be read by the Commission's computers. Data submitted in a format that does not meet the Commission's filing specifications and therefore does not permit the Commission's computers to read and locate required information will not be treated as a filed report under proposed paragraph 104.18(c). Similarly, a damaged disk that cannot be read by the computer system will not be accepted. In addition, filings that do not contain valid identifying information for the committee and the report being submitted, or that are not signed using one of the signature mechanisms provided by the rules, will not be considered filed. The Commission proposes to notify committees whose reports are not accepted.

To determine that a report submitted in an electronic format meets these requirements, the Commission is developing validation software that will check the submitted record structures to be sure they meet the requirements of the format specifications. This software will be available to committees at no charge, to enable them to run their reports against this program and ensure that their submission will not be rejected.

Another issue involves the method of submitting electronic reports. When the program first goes into effect in 1997, the Commission proposes to accept reports only on floppy disk. This approach will help ease the transition to accepting reports in this new format, since it is comparable to the Commission's past practice of accepting computerized media from Presidential campaigns. As soon as practicable, however, the Commission expects to initiate acceptance of reports through telecommunications. Among other things, since the law provides that reports are due on specified dates, this option would require the arrangement of a mechanism for handling a large influx of data during a compressed time period with intervening periods of no activity. As a guide to assessing the potential load factor involved in accepting reports via modem, the Commission encourages committees to comment on whether they are currently capable of submitting an electronic report via telecommunications and whether they perceive any problems with a system that allows reports to be filed in this manner.

Amended Reports

Proposed paragraph (d) would require that amendments to reports be filed in an electronic format if the original report was filed electronically, and that the amendment consist of a complete version of the report as amended, not just those portions of the earlier submission that are being changed. The Commission welcomes comments on how to address amendments, particularly with regard to whether the amendment should be a complete version of the report. This approach has the advantage of placing a complete revised copy of the report on the public file, and therefore would not require those reviewing a committee's records to piece later amendments of reports together with earlier submissions. However, filing a complete revised version would not immediately indicate what aspects of the earlier report had changed. Larger reports could pose a particular problem in this regard. In addition, the Commission encourages comments on whether one approach would be easier for committees to comply with than the other.

Signature Requirements

The Act requires that reports and statements shall be signed by the person responsible for filing them. See, 2 U.S.C. 434(a)(1) and (c). Public Law 104–79 directs the Commission to develop one or more methods for verifying reports filed electronically and states that such a verification will be treated the same as a signature for all purposes. In the initial phase of the new system, paragraph (e) of the proposed rule would require that filers utilize one of two methods for verifying their reports. Either a signed certification page would be submitted with the disk containing the electronic report, or the disk would contain a digitized version of the signed certification. When the Commission begins to accept reports filed by telecommunications, it plans to provide other methods for verification, such as providing an encryption key to the treasurer or allowing simultaneous mailing of a signature page, similar to the system being used by the Internal Revenue Service in its electronic filing program. Suggestions for other methods are welcome.

Certain schedules and forms must be filed with signatures from third parties, however. For example, the Act requires that Schedule E and Form 5, which are used to report independent expenditures, be notarized. Schedule C–1 (Loans and Lines of Credit from Lending Institutions) and Form 8 (Debt Settlement Plans) must be filed with signatures from lenders and creditors, respectively. In addition, Schedule C–1 must be accompanied by a copy of the relevant loan agreement. The electronic record format will be designed to include the data provided on these forms and schedules. However, to satisfy these additional requirements, proposed paragraph (f) would also require that either a signed version of these schedules and forms (and any accompanying materials) be digitized and submitted as a separate file in the electronic submission, or that a signed paper original of these schedules and forms (and accompanying materials) be submitted with the electronic media.

Additional Issues

For those commenters who are reporting entities, some additional information about the committee would be helpful to the Commission's inquiry. In particular, the Commission would be interested in whether the committee uses a computer to maintain its records and prepare its reports. If so, what data is maintained on the computer? For example, does the data include information regarding contributors, contributions to candidates, other receipts and disbursements? If the committee uses a software package to maintain this data and/or to prepare its reports, what package(s) does it use? Does this software incorporate all the information the committee needs to file its reports or is it necessary to bring in information from other sources?

In addition, the Commission would welcome comments indicating whether reporting committees plan to take advantage of this option. The Commission recognizes that, to be successful, any electronic filing program must accommodate to the extent possible the needs and capabilities of the filing community. A major factor to be considered in this regard is the high level of turnover among filers. A significant portion of the filing population is only involved in campaign finance disclosure for a relatively short period. This includes unsuccessful candidates as well as political committees that go out of existence after a few months or a year. Many committees, including those that have a more stable existence (such as party committees), operate largely with volunteers or experience frequent staff changes. Consequently, there also may be little staff continuity in some ongoing committees. Moreover, those that depend on volunteers may be disadvantaged by the limited time those individuals can devote to committee responsibilities.

However, other committees have a more permanent staff and are sophisticated in their use of computers and their knowledge of the law. These committees might have an easier time converting to an electronic filing format.

Therefore, a fundamental question on which the Commission welcomes comment concerns the potential benefits of an electronic filing system to filers and others. How can electronic filing make disclosure easier? Conversely, are there any perceived problems with the Commission's approach to electronic filing, whether from a procedural or technical perspective, and how can these problems be averted?

A related point concerns committees that begin filing electronically but for some reason are later unable to do so. Proposed paragraph (a) would require that committees continue to submit reports in an electronic format for the remainder of the calendar year in which they elect to begin filing electronically. This provision has been added for several reasons, including enabling the agency to efficiently administer the disclosure program and to ensure continuity in the means by which a committee's reports are placed on the public record. While these are important considerations for the Commission's administration of the Act, should the Commission attempt to distinguish committees with a genuine problem from those who simply decide to discontinue submitting electronic reports? If so, how could this be accomplished?

Information on the electronic capability of current filers would be helpful in assessing the community's readiness to move to this reporting format. Any other information the committee feels would be helpful to the Commission in its efforts to assess the ability of the regulated community to move to an electronic filing format would be appreciated.

Finally, the Commission is interested in the experience of other jurisdictions that have implemented an electronic filing program. What have these jurisdictions found to be the most effective means of introducing filers to the new system, without jeopardizing the integrity of their ongoing program? Since the Commission will not have a test period for filing reports electronically before it begins accepting these reports solely in electronic format, are there any concerns of committees that should be addressed?

List of Subjects in 11 CFR Part 104

Campaign funds, Political candidates, Political committees and parties, Reporting requirements.

Certification of No Effect Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(B) (Regulatory Flexibility Act)

These proposed rules will not, if promulgated, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The basis for this certification is that no small entity is required to submit reports electronically under these proposed rules.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, it is proposed to amend subchapter A, Chapter I of title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 104—REPORTS BY POLITICAL COMMITTEES

1. The authority citation for Part 104 would be amended as follows:

Authority: 2 U.S.C. 431(1), 431(8), 431(9), 432(d), 432(i), 434, 438(a)(8), 438(b).

§ 104.17 [Reserved]

2. Section 104.17 is reserved.

3. Section 104.18 would be added to read as follows:

§ 104.18 Electronic filing of reports (2 U.S.C. 432(d) and 434(a)(11)).

(a) *General.* A political committee that files reports with the Commission, as provided in 11 CFR Part 105, may choose to file its reports in an electronic format that meets the requirements of this section. If a committee chooses to file its reports electronically, and its first electronic report passes the Commission's validation program in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, it must continue to file in an electronic format all reports covering financial activity for that calendar year.

(b) *Format specifications.* Reports filed electronically shall conform to the technical specifications, including file requirements, described in the Federal Election Commission's Electronic Filing Specifications Requirements. The data contained in the computerized magnetic media provided to the Commission shall be organized in the order specified by the Electronic Filing Specifications Requirements.

(c) *Acceptance of reports filed in electronic format.*

(1) Each committee that submits an electronic report shall check the report against the Commission's validation program before it is submitted, to ensure that the files submitted meet the Commission's format specifications and can be read by the Commission's computer system. Each report submitted in an electronic format under this section shall also be checked upon receipt against the Commission's validation program. The Commission's validation program is available on request and at no charge.

(2) A report that does not pass the validation program will not be accepted by the Commission and will not be considered filed. If a committee submits a report that does not pass the validation program, the Commission will notify the committee that the report has not been accepted.

(d) *Amended reports.* If a committee files an amendment to a report that was filed electronically, it shall also submit the amendment in an electronic format. The committee shall submit a complete version of the report as amended, and

not just the portions of the earlier report that are being amended.

(e) *Signature requirements.* The committee's treasurer, or any other person having the responsibility to file a designation, report or statement under this subchapter, shall verify the report in one of the following ways: by submitting a signed certification on paper that is submitted with the computerized media; or by submitting a digitized copy of the signed certification as a separate file in the electronic submission. Each verification submitted under this section shall certify that the person has examined the report or statement and, to the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete. Any verification under this section shall be treated for all purposes (including penalties for perjury) in the same manner as a verification by signature on a report submitted in a paper format.

(f) *Schedules and forms with special requirements.* The following list of schedules, materials, and forms have special signature and other requirements and reports containing these documents shall include, in addition to providing the required data within the electronic report, either a paper copy submitted with the committee's electronic report or a digitized version submitted as a separate file in the electronic submission: Schedule C–1 (Loans and Lines of Credit From Lending Institutions), including copies of loan agreements required to be filed with that Schedule, Schedule E (Itemized Independent Expenditures), Form 5 (Report of Independent Exepnditures Made and Contributions Received), and Form 8 (Debt Settlement Plan). The committee shall submit any paper materials together with the electronic media containing the committee's report.

(g) *Preservation of reports.* For any report filed in electronic format under this section, the treasurer shall retain a machine-readable copy of the report as the copy preserved under 11 CFR 104.14(b)(2). In addition, the treasurer shall retain the original signed version of any documents submitted in a digitized format under paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section.

Dated: March 22, 1996.

Lee Ann Elliott,

Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 96–7405 Filed 3–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 95–CE–84–AD]

Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. (Formerly Piper Aircraft Corporation) PA31, PA31P, PA31T, and PA42 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to certain The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. (Piper) PA31, PA31P, PA31T, and PA42 series airplanes. The proposed action would require inspecting for cracks beneath and in the area of the inboard aileron hinge bracket on the aileron spar and rib using dye penetrant methods, replacing any cracked aileron spar or rib, and replacing the inboard aileron hinge bracket with a hinge bracket of improved design. Several reports of cracks in the vicinity of the inboard aileron hinge bracket, aileron spar, and aileron rib prompted this proposed action. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent structural failure of the aileron caused by cracks in the area of the inboard aileron hinge bracket, which, if not detected and corrected, could result in loss of control of the airplane.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 7, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 95–CE–84–AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Comments may be inspected at this location between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.

Piper Service Bulletin (SB) No. 967, dated January 24, 1994, and Piper SB No. 974, dated October 19, 1994, may be obtained from The New Piper Aircraft, Inc., Attn: Customer Service, 2926 Piper Dr., Vero Beach, Florida, 32960. This information also may be examined at the Rules Docket at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christina Marsh, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, Campus Building, 1701 Columbia Avenue, suite 2–160, College Park, Georgia 30337–2748; telephone (404) 305–7362; facsimile (404) 305–7348.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report that summarizes each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: ''Comments to Docket No. 95–CE–84–AD.'' The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 95–CE–84–AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Discussion

The FAA has received several service difficulty reports (SDRs) on certain Piper PA31, PA31P, PA31T, and PA42 series airplanes reflecting a problem with cracks in the aileron spar in the area of the inboard aileron hinge brackets. The cracks are appearing in certain Piper airplanes having between 3,000 hours time-in- service (TIS) and 12,000 hours TIS. The cause of this condition is believed to be the location of the inboard aileron hinge bracket in relation to the aileron pushrod. The inboard aileron hinge bracket is located 2.06 inches from the center line of the pushrod whereas the outboard aileron hinge bracket is located 45.17 inches from the center line of the pushrod, with both brackets being identical in