

representative. All public comment will be recorded and will be made part of the meeting record. We request that anyone who makes an oral comment also submit a written statement to the AMS representative at the meeting.

#### How Can Interested Persons Participate?

1. *In person.* Anyone may attend and comment at a meeting. If you wish to make a comment, you should register with AMS as soon as possible but prior to the meeting date. You may register by calling the NOP at (202) 720-3252, at which time you will be requested to submit your name, the topic of the comment, and the meeting location where you will make the comment. Registration will help ensure that you will be able to present your comment during the meeting. You also may register to make a comment by sending an e-mail message to NOP.Register@usda.gov. If you are unable to register prior to the meetings, you will be able to sign up at each location on the day of the meeting. Late registrants may submit comments on a first-come, first-served basis following the completion of comments from pre-registered individuals. Oral comments will be limited to 5 minutes to enable the greatest number of presenters an opportunity to speak.

2. *Written comments.* Written comments may be mailed to Mark Keating, National Organic Program USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2510—South, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Telephone: (202) 720-3252; Fax: (202) 205-7808.

3. *Electronically.* Comments also may be submitted electronically via the Internet through Aquatic.Comment@usda.gov.

#### What Topics Should Comments Address?

##### General

1. How would the introduction of organic production and handling standards for aquatic animal operations affect consumer perception and acceptance of the organic certification process for other types of operations?

2. How would an organic label impact the marketing of aquatic animals?

3. What types of certification programs other than organic could provide consumers with useful information on the harvesting and processing of aquatic animals?

4. How would AMS organic standards for the production and handling of aquatic animals relate to international regulation?

#### Aquatic Animal Operations

1. Which components of organic certification for crops and livestock are compatible with or similar to operations that produce aquatic animals?

2. How can aquatic animal operations comply with the requirements of the OFPA which include:

- an organic system plan,
- wildcrop harvesting,
- origin of slaughter stock,
- health care practices,
- living conditions,
- allowed and prohibited substances,
- feed requirements,
- post-harvest processing,
- identification and record keeping systems.

#### Wild Harvested Operations

1. What should be the criteria for determining the suitability of a wild harvest site for the production of organic aquatic animals? How should prevailing environmental factors such as water quality, the presence of prohibited substances, and human activity be incorporated into the site inspection and approval? How should the potential impact of the operation on the target species, non-target species, and the environment be addressed in the certification process?

2. How can the population dynamics of the targeted species, including age distribution, reproductive capacity, and sustainable catch limits, be cumulatively addressed by the organic system plans of multiple operations?

3. How can producers anticipate and certifying agents verify site conditions over time and across the production site in which wild harvest operations function?

4. How can the management practices of a fish hatchery that contributes to a wild harvest population of aquatic animals be incorporated into the organic system plan?

#### Aquaculture Operations

1. What should the criteria be for evaluating the suitability of a production site for an organic aquaculture operation? Specifically, how can standards be developed for the site of production to address nutrient concentration, the emergence and transfer of disease, the escape of captive species to the wild, and detrimental impacts on indigenous species?

2. What characteristics of fish meal are pertinent to the requirement in the OFPA that producers supply livestock with organically produced feed that meets the requirements of the OFPA?

3. What guidelines are needed to ensure that the predator control

practices used in aquaculture operations are consistent with organic principles?

4. Should the induction of triploidy in fish species be classified as an allowed or prohibited practice?

5. How should standards address the origin of livestock requirement for aquaculture operations that obtain stock or fry from wild populations?

Dated: March 17, 2000.

**Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,**

*Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.*

[FR Doc. 00-7144 Filed 3-22-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Agricultural Marketing Service

#### 7 CFR Part 930

[Docket No. AO-370-A7; FV00-930-1]

#### **Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin; Hearing on Proposed Amendment of Marketing Agreement and Order No. 930**

**AGENCY:** Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of hearing on proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to consider amending Marketing Agreement and Order No. 930, hereinafter referred to as the "order." The order regulates the handling of tart cherries grown in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. The purpose of the hearing is to receive evidence on a number of amendments proposed by the Cherry Industry Administrative Board (Board), which is responsible for local administration of the order. Major proposals include making all districts subject to volume regulations, rather than only those districts producing more than 15 million pounds per year; making shipments of cherry juice and juice concentrate to certain markets eligible to receive diversion credit; making all cherry shipments subject to assessments; and eliminating the requirement that different assessment rates be established for different cherry products.

**DATES:** The hearing dates are:

1. March 27, 2000, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and continuing on March 28, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., if necessary, Rochester, New York.

2. March 29, 2000, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; March 30, 2000, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00

p.m.; and continuing on March 31, 2000 at 9:00 a.m., if necessary; Grand Rapids, Michigan.

3. April 4, 2000, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and continuing on April 5, 2000 at 9:00 a.m., if necessary, Kennewick, Washington.

4. April 6, 2000, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and continuing on April 7, 2000, if necessary, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing locations are:

1. Rochester—Radisson Hotel  
Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Road,  
Rochester, New York 14623.

2. Grand Rapids—Courtyard by  
Marriott Downtown, 11 Monroe  
Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503.

3. Kennewick—Cavanaugh's at  
Columbia Center, 1101 W. Columbia  
Center Boulevard, Kennewick,  
Washington 99336.

4. Salt Lake City—Utah Department of  
Agriculture and Food (Conference  
Room), 350 North Redwood Road, Salt  
Lake City, Utah 84116.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Anne M. Dec, Marketing Order  
Administration Branch, Fruit and  
Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, P.O.  
Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington,  
DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-  
2491, Fax: (202) 205-6632. Small  
businesses may request information on  
this proceeding by contacting Jay  
Guerber, Marketing Order  
Administration Branch, Fruit and  
Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room  
2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington,  
DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-  
2491, Fax: (202) 205-6632.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This  
administrative action is instituted  
pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing  
Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7  
U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to  
as the "Act." This action is governed by  
the provisions of sections 556 and 557  
of title 5 of the United States Code and,  
therefore, is excluded from the  
requirements of Executive Order 12866.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5  
U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) seeks to ensure that  
within the statutory authority of a  
program, the regulatory and  
informational requirements are tailored  
to the size and nature of small  
businesses. Interested persons are  
invited to present evidence at the  
hearing on the possible regulatory and  
informational impacts of the proposals  
on small businesses.

The amendments proposed herein  
have been reviewed under Executive  
Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. They  
are not intended to have retroactive  
effect. If adopted, the proposed  
amendments would not preempt any  
State or local laws, regulations, or

policies, unless they present an  
irreconcilable conflict with the  
proposals.

The Act provides that administrative  
proceedings must be exhausted before  
parties may file suit in court. Under  
section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any  
handler subject to an order may file  
with the Secretary a petition stating that  
the order, any provision of the order, or  
any obligation imposed in connection  
with the order is not in accordance with  
law and request a modification of the  
order or to be exempted therefrom. A  
handler is afforded the opportunity for  
a hearing on the petition. The Act  
provides that the district court of the  
United States in any district in which  
the handler is an inhabitant, or has his  
or her principal place of business, has  
jurisdiction to review the Secretary's  
ruling on the petition, provided an  
action is filed not later than 20 days  
after the date of the entry of the ruling.

The hearing is called pursuant to the  
provisions of the Act and the applicable  
rules of practice and procedure  
governing the formulation of marketing  
agreements and orders (7 CFR part 900).

The Board proposes to revise seven  
areas of program operations. The  
proposed amendments are summarized  
below.

1. Make all districts in the production  
area subject to volume regulations rather  
than applying such regulations only to  
districts with annual production of 15  
million pounds or more.

2. Allocate Board membership among  
districts based on each district's level of  
production. This would provide more  
flexibility than the order's current  
provisions which set a definite number  
of member seats for each district.

A related change is proposed in  
quorum requirements. Since the number  
of Board members could vary over time,  
at least two-thirds of the Board members  
must be present at any Board meeting.  
The order currently provides that 12 of  
18 members constitutes a quorum.

3. If both a Board member and  
alternate are unable to attend a meeting,  
allow the Board to designate another  
alternate to act in his or her stead.  
Currently, only a member's designated  
alternate may serve in that member's  
stead.

4. Revise order diversion and  
exemption provisions in six ways:  
Provide for diversion credit for  
shipments of cherry juice and juice  
concentrate to established diversion  
markets. The order currently prohibits  
juice and juice concentrate from  
receiving diversion credit.

Add specific authority to exempt or  
provide diversion credit for cherries  
exported to designated markets.

Add specific authority for the transfer  
of diversion credits among handlers.

Provide that grower diversions that  
take place in districts that are  
subsequently exempt from volume  
regulation still qualify for diversion  
credit.

Clarify diversion and exemption  
provisions of the order by eliminating  
cross references among those  
provisions, and specify that exemptions  
would not be entitled to receive  
diversion credit.

Further clarify § 930.59 by adding a  
paragraph indicating that the Secretary's  
rulemaking authority extends to all the  
provisions of that section.

5. Revise § 930.54 to make it clear that  
cherries in the inventory reserve may be  
released either for use in any market, or  
for use in only certain designated  
markets, depending on prevailing  
conditions.

6. Make two changes in § 930.41  
pertaining to assessments:

Provide that assessments must be paid  
on all cherries handled, except for those  
that are diverted by destruction at a  
handler's facilities or are covered by  
grower diversion certificates. Currently,  
all cherries used in outlets eligible for  
diversion credit or exemption are  
exempt from assessments.

Provide that a uniform assessment  
rate apply to all cherries handled,  
unless the Board recommends  
differential rates to compensate for  
differences in the number of pounds  
used for various products or for the  
relative market values of such products.  
The order currently requires differential  
rates to be established, unless there is a  
compelling reason to do otherwise.

7. Make two changes to § 930.50,  
Marketing policy:

In recommending volume regulations,  
allow the Board to use a crop estimate  
other than the official USDA crop  
estimate. Currently, the Board is  
required to use the USDA estimate.

Provide that the 10 percent reserve  
release provided for market expansion  
only apply during years when restricted  
percentages are in effect. Currently, the  
release is being made whether or not  
volume regulations are in place.

The Board works with the Department  
in administering the order. These  
proposals have not received the  
approval of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Board believes that the proposed  
changes would improve the  
administration, operation, and  
functioning of the order.

Also, the Fruit and Vegetable  
Programs of the Agricultural Marketing  
Service (AMS) proposes to allow such  
conforming changes to the order which

may be necessary as a result of the hearing.

The public hearing is held for the purpose of: (i) Receiving evidence about the economic and marketing conditions which relate to the proposed amendments of the order; (ii) determining whether there is a need for the proposed amendments to the order; and (iii) determining whether the proposed amendments or appropriate modifications thereof will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

Testimony is invited at the hearing on all the proposals and recommendations contained in this notice, as well as any appropriate modifications or alternatives.

All persons wishing to submit written material as evidence at the hearing should be prepared to submit four copies of such material at the hearing and should have prepared testimony available for presentation at the hearing.

From the time the notice of hearing is issued and until the issuance of a final decision in this proceeding, Department employees involved in the decisional process are prohibited from discussing the merits of the hearing issues on an *ex parte* basis with any person having an interest in the proceeding. The prohibition applies to employees in the following organizational units: Office of the Secretary of Agriculture; Office of the Administrator, AMS; Office of the General Counsel, except any designated employees of the General Counsel assigned to represent the Board in this rulemaking proceeding; and the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS.

Procedural matters are not subject to the above prohibition and may be discussed at any time.

#### List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 930

Marketing agreements, Tart cherries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

#### PART 930—TART CHERRIES GROWN IN THE STATES OF MICHIGAN, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, OREGON, UTAH, WASHINGTON AND WISCONSIN

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 930 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

2. Testimony is invited on the following proposals or appropriate alternatives or modifications to such proposals.

Proposals submitted by the Cherry Industry Administrative Board:

#### Proposal No. 1

Amend § 930.52 by revising paragraph (a); removing paragraph (c); redesignating current paragraphs (d) and (e) as paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively; and revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

#### § 930.52 Establishment of districts subject to volume regulation.

(a) All districts within the production area, as defined in § 930.14, shall be subject to any volume regulations implemented in accordance with this part. The production of any cherries within a district shall cause that district to continue to be subject to any volume regulations implemented in accordance with this part unless the district is otherwise exempted from regulations under § 930.52(c).

(b) \* \* \*

(c) Any district producing a crop which falls below 50 percent of the average annual processed production in that district in the previous five years would be exempt from any volume

regulation if, in that year, a restricted percentage is established.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Proposal No. 2

Amend § 930.20 by revising paragraphs (a), (b), (d) and (e); adding a new paragraph (f); and redesignating current paragraphs (f) and (g) as (g) and (h), respectively, to read as follows:

#### § 930.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a Cherry Industry Administrative Board, the members of which shall be calculated in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section. The number of Board members may vary, depending upon the production levels of the districts. All but one of these members shall be qualified growers and handlers selected pursuant to this part, each of whom shall have an alternate having the same qualifications as the member for whom the person is an alternate. One member of the Board shall be a public member who, along with his or her alternate, shall be elected by the Board from the general public.

(b) District representation on the Board shall be based upon the previous three year average production in the district and shall be established as follows:

(1) Up to and including 10 million pounds shall have 1 member;

(2) Greater than 10 and up to and including 40 million pounds shall have 2 members;

(3) Greater than 40 and up to and including 80 million pounds shall have 3 members; and

(4) Greater than 80 million pounds shall have 4 members.

Allocation of the seats in each district shall be as follows but subject to the provisions of paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of this section:

District type	Grower members	Handler members
Up to and including 10 million pounds .....	1	1
More than 10 and up to 40 million pounds .....	1	1
More than 40 and up to 80 million pounds .....	1	2
More than 80 million pounds .....	2	2

(c) \* \* \*

(d) The ratio of grower to handler representation in districts with three members shall alternate each time the term of a Board member from the representative group having two seats expires. During the initial period of the order, the ratio shall be as designated in paragraph (b) of this section.

(e) Board members from districts with one seat may be either grower or

handlers members and will be nominated and elected as outlined in § 930.23.

(f) If the 3-year average production of a district changes so that a different number of seats should be allocated to a district, then the Board shall be reestablished by the Secretary, and such

seats shall be filled according to the applicable provisions of this part.

\* \* \* \* \*

Amend § 930.32 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

#### § 930.32 Procedure.

(a) Two-thirds of the members of the Board, including alternates acting for absent members, shall constitute a quorum. For any action of the Board to

pass, at least two-thirds of the entire Board must vote in support of such action.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Proposal No. 3

Revise § 930.28 to read as follow:

#### § 930.28 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the Board, during the absence of the member for whom that member serves as an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. However, if a member is in attendance at a meeting of the Board, an alternate member may not act in the place and stead of such member. In the event a member and his or her alternate are absent from a meeting of the Board, such member or alternate, in that order, may designate, in writing and prior to the meeting, an alternate from another district to act in his or her place. If neither a member nor his or her alternate has designated an alternate as his or her replacement, or if such designated alternate is unable to serve as the replacement, the chairperson may, with the concurrence of a majority of the members including alternates acting as members, designate an alternate, who is present at the meeting and is not acting as a member, to act in the place and stead of the absent member. In the event of the death, removal, resignation or disqualification of a member, the alternate shall act for the member until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

### Proposal No. 4

Amend § 930.59 by revising paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), removing paragraph (d), revising paragraph (e) and redesignating it as paragraph (d), and adding new paragraphs (e) and (f) to read as follows:

#### § 930.59 Handler diversion privilege.

(a) *In general.* Handlers handling cherries harvested in a regulated district may fulfill any restricted percentage requirement in full or in part by acquiring diversion certificates or by voluntarily diverting cherries or cherry products in a program approved by the Board, rather than placing cherries in an inventory reserve. Upon voluntary diversion and compliance with the provisions of this section, the Board shall issue to the diverting handler a handler diversion certificate which shall satisfy any restricted percentage or diversion requirement to the extent of the Board or Department inspected weight of the cherries diverted.

(b) *Eligible diversion.* Handler diversion certificates shall be issued to handlers only if the cherries are diverted in accordance with the following terms and conditions or such other terms and conditions that the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Such diversion may take place in any form which the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may designate. Such forms may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Contribution to a Board-approved food bank or other approved charitable organization;

(2) Use for new product and new market development;

(3) Export to designated destinations; or

(4) Other uses or disposition, including destruction of the cherries at the handler's facilities.

(c) *Notification.* The handler electing to divert cherries through means authorized under this section shall first notify the Board of such election. Such notification shall describe in detail the manner in which the handler proposes to divert cherries including, if the diversion is to be by means of destruction of the cherries, a detailed description of the means of destruction and ultimate disposition of the cherries. It shall also contain an agreement that the proposed diversion is to be carried out under the supervision of the Board and that the cost of such supervision is to be paid by the handler. Uniform fees for such supervision may be established by the Board, pursuant to rules and regulations approved by the Secretary.

(d) *Diversion certificate.* The Board shall conduct such supervision of the handler's diversion of cherries under paragraph (c) of this section as may be necessary to assure that the cherries are diverted as authorized. After the diversion has been completed, the Board shall issue to the diverting handler a handler diversion certificate indicating the weight of cherries which may be used to offset any restricted percentage requirement.

(e) *Transfer of certificates.* Within such restrictions as may be prescribed in rules and regulations, including but not limited to procedures for transfer of diversion credit and limitations on the type of certification eligible for transfer, a handler who acquires diversion certificates representing diverted cherries during any crop year may transfer such certificates to another handler or handlers. The Board must be notified in writing whenever such transfers take place during a crop year.

(f) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish rules and

regulations necessary and incidental to the administration of this section.

Revise § 930.62 to read as follows:

#### § 930.62 Exempt uses.

(a) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may exempt from the provisions of § 930.41, § 930.44, § 940.51, § 930.53, and § 930.55 through § 930.57 cherries for designated uses. Such uses may include, but are not limited to:

(1) New product and new market development;

(2) Export to designated destinations;

(3) Experimental purposes; or

(4) For any other use designated by the Board, including cherries processed into products for markets for which less than 5 percent of the preceding 5-year average production of cherries were utilized.

(b) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to ensure that cherries handled under the provisions of this section are handled only as authorized.

(c) Diversion certificates shall not be issued for cherries which are used for exempt purposes.

### Proposal No. 5

Revise § 930.54 to read as follows:

#### § 930.54 Prohibition on the use or disposition of inventory reserve cherries.

Cherries that are placed in inventory reserve pursuant to the requirements of § 930.50, § 930.51, § 930.55, or § 930.57 shall not be used or disposed of by any handler or any other person except as provided in § 930.50 or in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section. (a) If the Board determines that the total available supplies for use in commercial outlets are less than the amount needed to meet the demand in such outlets, the Board may recommend to the Secretary that a portion or all of the primary and/or secondary inventory reserve cherries be released for such use.

(b) The Board may recommend to the Secretary that a portion or all of the primary and/or secondary inventory reserve cherries be released for sale in certain designated markets.

### Proposal No. 6

Amend § 930.41 by revising paragraphs (c) and (f) to read as follows:

#### § 930.41 Assessments.

(a) \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(c) As a pro rata share of the administrative, inspection, research, development, and promotion expenses which the Secretary finds reasonable and likely to be incurred by the Board

during a fiscal period, each handler shall pay to the Board assessments on all cherries handled, as the handler thereof, during such period: *Provided*, a handler shall be exempt from any assessment only on the tonnage of handled cherries that either are diverted by destruction at the handler's facilities according to § 930.59 or are cherries represented by grower diversion certificates issued pursuant to § 930.58(b) and acquired by handlers as described in § 930.59.

(d) \* \* \*

(e) \* \* \*

(f) Assessments shall be uniform and calculated on the basis of pounds of cherries handled, unless the Board adopts a formula, approved by the Secretary, for determining the rate(s) of assessment which may compensate:

(1) for differences in the number of pounds of cherries utilized for various cherry products; or

(2) for the relative market values of such cherry products; or

(3) for both of these factors.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Proposal No. 7

Amend § 930.50 by revising paragraphs (b) and (g) to read as follows:

#### § 930.50 Marketing policy.

(a) \* \* \*

(b) *Preliminary percentages.* On or about July 1 of each crop year, the Board shall establish a preliminary free market tonnage percentage which shall be calculated as follows: from the optimum supply computed in paragraph (a) of this section, the Board shall deduct the carryin inventory to determine the tonnage requirements (adjusted to a raw fruit equivalent) for the current crop year which will be subtracted from the current year USDA crop forecast or by an average of such other crop estimates the Board votes to use. If the resulting number is positive, this would represent the estimated over-production which would be the restricted tonnage. This restricted tonnage would then be divided by the sum of the crop forecast(s) for the regulated districts to obtain a preliminary restricted percentage, rounded to the nearest whole number, for the regulated districts. If subtracting the current crop year requirement, computed in the first sentence from the current crop forecast, results in a negative number, the Board shall establish a preliminary free market tonnage percentage of 100 percent with a preliminary restricted percentage of zero. The Board shall announce these preliminary percentages in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(c) \* \* \*

(d) \* \* \*

(e) \* \* \*

(f) \* \* \*

(g) *Additional tonnage to sell as free tonnage.* In addition, the Board, in years when restricted percentages are established, shall make available tonnage equivalent to an additional 10 percent, if available, of the average sales of the prior 3 years, as defined in paragraph (a) of this section, for market expansion.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, submitted the following proposal:

#### Proposal No. 8

Make such changes as may be necessary to the order to conform with any amendment thereto that may result from the hearing.

Dated: March 17, 2000.

**Kathleen A. Merrigan,**  
*Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 00-7160 Filed 3-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NE-04-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

#### Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-535 Series Turbofan Engines

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to Rolls-Royce plc RB211-535 series turbofan engines. This proposal would remove from service suspect radial drive steady bearings with certain serial number prefixes, and replace them with serviceable parts. Reports of a number of radial drive steady bearing failures from distinct batches of parts prompted this proposal. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent radial drive steady bearing failure, which could result in an in-flight engine shutdown and smoke and fumes in the cabin.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by April 24, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),

New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000-NE-04-AD, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may also be submitted to the Rules Docket by using the following Internet address: "9-ane-adcomment@faa.gov". Comments may be inspected at this location between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Rolls-Royce plc, PO Box 31, Derby, England; telephone: International Access Code 011, Country Code 44, 1332-249428, fax International Access Code 011, Country Code 44, 1332-249223. This information may be examined at the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jason Yang, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone 781-238-7747, fax 781-238-7199.

#### 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 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 summarizing 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 Number 2000-NE-04-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.