

(9) B200T

Note 1: The actions of AD 96–09–13 are required for the Beech Models B200 and B200C airplanes.

What Is the Unsafe Condition Presented in This AD?

(d) The actions specified in this AD are intended to minimize the potential hazards associated with operating these airplanes in severe icing conditions by providing more clearly defined procedures and limitations.

What Must I Do to Address This Problem?

(e) Within 30 days after November 4, 1998 (the effective date of AD 98–20–38), do the requirements of paragraphs (e)(1) and (e)(2) of this AD, unless already accomplished.

Note 2: Operators should initiate action to notify and ensure that flight crewmembers are apprised of this change.

(1) Revise the FAA-approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) by incorporating the following into the Limitations Section of the AFM. This may be accomplished by inserting a copy of this AD in the AFM.

“WARNING

Severe icing may result from environmental conditions outside of those for which the airplane is certificated. Flight in freezing rain, freezing drizzle, or mixed icing conditions (supercooled liquid water and ice crystals) may result in ice build-up on protected surfaces exceeding the capability of the ice protection system, or may result in ice forming aft of the protected surfaces. This ice may not be shed using the ice protection systems, and may seriously degrade the performance and controllability of the airplane.

- During flight, severe icing conditions that exceed those for which the airplane is certificated shall be determined by the following visual cues. If one or more of these visual cues exists, immediately request priority handling from Air Traffic Control to facilitate a route or an altitude change to exit the icing conditions.

- Unusually extensive ice accumulation on the airframe and windshield in areas not normally observed to collect ice.

- Accumulation of ice on the upper surface of the wing, aft of the protected area.

- Accumulation of ice on the engine nacelles and propeller spinners farther aft than normally observed.

- Since the autopilot, when installed and operating, may mask tactile cues that indicate adverse changes in handling characteristics, use of the autopilot is prohibited when any of the visual cues specified above exist, or when unusual lateral trim requirements or autopilot trim warnings are encountered while the airplane is in icing conditions.

- All wing icing inspection lights must be operative prior to flight into known or forecast icing conditions at night. [**Note:** This supersedes any relief provided by the Master Minimum Equipment List (M MEL).]”

(2) Revise the FAA-approved AFM by incorporating the following into the Normal Procedures Section of the AFM. This may be accomplished by inserting a copy of this AD in the AFM.

“THE FOLLOWING WEATHER CONDITIONS MAY BE CONDUCTIVE TO SEVERE IN-FLIGHT ICING:

- Visible rain at temperatures below 0 degrees Celsius ambient air temperature.
- Droplets that splash or splatter on impact at temperatures below 0 degrees Celsius ambient air temperature.

PROCEDURES FOR EXITING THE SEVERE ICING ENVIRONMENT:

These procedures are applicable to all flight phases from takeoff to landing. Monitor the ambient air temperature. While severe icing may form at temperatures as cold as -18 degrees Celsius, increased vigilance is warranted at temperatures around freezing with visible moisture present. If the visual cues specified in the Limitations Section of the AFM for identifying severe icing conditions are observed, accomplish the following:

- Immediately request priority handling from Air Traffic Control to facilitate a route or an altitude change to exit the severe icing conditions in order to avoid extended exposure to flight conditions more severe than those for which the airplane has been certificated.

- Avoid abrupt and excessive maneuvering that may exacerbate control difficulties.

- Do not engage the autopilot.

- If the autopilot is engaged, hold the control wheel firmly and disengage the autopilot.

- If an unusual roll response or uncommanded roll control movement is observed, reduce the angle-of-attack.
- Do not extend flaps when holding in icing conditions. Operation with flaps extended can result in a reduced wing angle-of-attack, with the possibility of ice forming on the upper surface further aft on the wing than normal, possibly aft of the protected area.

- If the flaps are extended, do not retract them until the airframe is clear of ice.

- Report these weather conditions to Air Traffic Control.”

(f) As an alternative method of compliance to the actions required by paragraph (e)(2) of this AD, revise the Abnormal Procedures Section or Emergency Procedures Section of the AFM instead of the Normal Procedures section of the AFM. Insert the information presented in paragraph (e)(2) of this AD into the applicable AFM section.

(g) The owner/operator holding at least a private pilot certificate as authorized by section 43.7 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.7) may incorporate the AFM revisions required by this AD. Enter this information into the aircraft records showing compliance with this AD following section 43.9 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 43.9).

May I Request an Alternative Method of Compliance?

(h) You may request a different method of compliance or a different compliance time for this AD by following the procedures in 14 CFR 39.19. Unless FAA authorizes otherwise, send your request to your principal inspector. The principal inspector may add

comments and will send your request to the Manager, Standards Office, Small Airplane Directorate, FAA. For information on any already approved alternative methods of compliance, contact Mr. Paul Pellicano, Aerospace Engineer (Icing Specialist), Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, FAA, One Crown Center, 1895 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia 30349; telephone: (770) 703-6064; facsimile: (770) 703-6097.

May I Get Copies of the Documents Referenced in This AD?

(i) You may view the AD docket at the Docket Management Facility; US Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC, or on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 15, 2004.

Dorenda D. Baker,

Manager, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 04–23728 Filed 10–21–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****23 CFR Part 655**

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA–2003–15149]

RIN 2125–AE98

National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Maintaining Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is extending the comment period for a notice of proposed amendments (NPA) to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD); request for comments on maintaining traffic sign retroreflectivity, which was published on July 30, 2004, at 69 FR 45623. The original comment period is set to close on October 28, 2004. The extension is based on concern expressed by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) that the October 28 closing date does not provide sufficient time for discussion of the issues in committee and a subsequent comprehensive response to the docket. The FHWA recognizes that others interested in commenting may have similar time constraints and agrees that the comment

period should be extended. Therefore, the closing date for comments is changed to February 1, 2005, which will provide the NCUTCD, the AASHTO, and others interested in commenting additional time to discuss, evaluate, and submit responses to the docket.

DATES: Submit comments on or before February 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or submit electronically at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit> or fax comments to (202) 493-2251. All comments should include the docket number that appears in the heading of this document.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> (follow the on-line instructions for submitted comments). All comments received will be available for examination and copying at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard or may print the acknowledgment page that appears after submitting comments electronically. Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Persons making comments may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70, Pages 19477-78) or may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter J. Hatzl, Office of Safety Design (HSA-10), (202) 366-8036, or Raymond Cuprill, Office of the Chief Counsel (202) 366-0791, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access and Filing

Interested parties may submit or retrieve comments online through the Document Management System (DMS) at: <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Acceptable formats include: MS Word (versions 95 to 97), MS Word for Mac (versions 6 to 8), Rich Text File (RTF), American Standard Code Information Interchange (ASCII) (TXT), Portable

Document Format (PDF), and WordPerfect (versions 7 to 8). The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Electronic submission, retrieval help and guidelines are available under the help section of the website.

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at <http://www.archives.gov> and the Government Printing Office's Web page at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Background

The FHWA has conducted extensive research on the minimum levels of sign retroreflectivity. This research led to the development of proposed minimum maintained levels of traffic sign retroreflectivity, and a complement of maintenance methods for implementing the levels. On July 30, 2004, the FHWA published in the **Federal Register** a notice of proposed amendments (NPA) proposing changes to the MUTCD to include methods to maintain traffic sign retroreflectivity. The proposed maintenance methods would establish a basis for improving nighttime visibility of traffic signs to promote safety, enhance traffic operations, and facilitate comfort and convenience for all drivers.

The existing MUTCD requires that traffic signs be illuminated or retroreflective. However, until recently, little information was available about the levels of retroreflectivity necessary to meet the needs of drivers and thereby define the useful life of signs. The NPA for maintaining traffic sign retroreflectivity is proposing guidance for evaluating and maintaining traffic sign retroreflectivity to address the needs of drivers. The methods proposed would allow agencies options for evaluating and managing their signs.

The NPA proposes a seven-year compliance period for regulatory, warning, and post mounted guide signs and a 10-year compliance period for overhead guide signs and street name signs.

The original comment period for the NPA closes on October 28, 2004. The NCUTCD and the AASHTO have expressed concern that this closing date does not provide sufficient time to review and discuss the proposed changes; and then, develop and submit complete responses to the docket. To allow time for these organizations and others to submit comprehensive comments, the closing date is changed

from October 28, 2004, to February 1, 2005.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 101(a), 104, 105, 109(d), 114(a), 135, 217, 307, 315, and 402(a); sec. 406(a), Pub. L. 102-388, 106 Stat. 1520, 1564, 23 CFR 1.32 and 49 CFR 1.48(b.)

Issued on: October 18, 2004.

Mary E. Peters,

Federal Highway Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Part 225

RIN 1855-AA02

Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program

AGENCY: Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Secretary issues these proposed regulations to administer the Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities program and its predecessor, the Charter School Facilities Financing Demonstration Grant program. Under this program, the Department provides competitive grants to entities that are non-profit or public or are consortia of these entities to demonstrate innovative credit enhancement strategies to assist charter schools in acquiring, constructing, and renovating facilities through loans, bonds, other debt instruments, or leases.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before November 22, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about these proposed regulations to Jim Houser, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6140. If you prefer to send comments through the Internet, use the following address: comments@ed.gov. You must include the term "credit enhancement" in the subject line of your electronic message.

If you want to comment on the information collection requirements, you must send your comments to the Office of Management and Budget at the address listed in the Paperwork Reduction Act section of this preamble. You may also send a copy of these comments to the Department representative named in this section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Valarie Perkins or Jim Houser, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6140. Telephone: (202) 260-1924 or via Internet, at: charter.facilities@ed.gov. If