

Presidential Documents

Title 3—

Proclamation 6741 of October 14, 1994

The President

White Cane Safety Day, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

At a time when nations around the world are embracing the blessings of democracy, human dignity, and freedom, it is fitting that Americans rededicate ourselves to protecting these rights for our own citizens.

White Cane Safety Day provides a special opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments and contributions of Americans who are blind and visually impaired and to heighten public awareness of the symbolic strength of the white cane. For blind and visually impaired persons, the white cane represents access, opportunity, mobility, and safety. For everyone in the United States, the white cane reminds us that having a disability does not diminish one's right to take part in any aspect of society. The independence the white cane provides enables wider participation in the work force, in commerce, education, entertainment, and indeed in all aspects of the human experience.

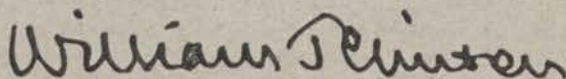
We must remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure full access for blind and visually impaired persons and for others with disabilities. Our continuing efforts to implement fully and to enforce the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975, and other statutes serve to guarantee access and opportunity.

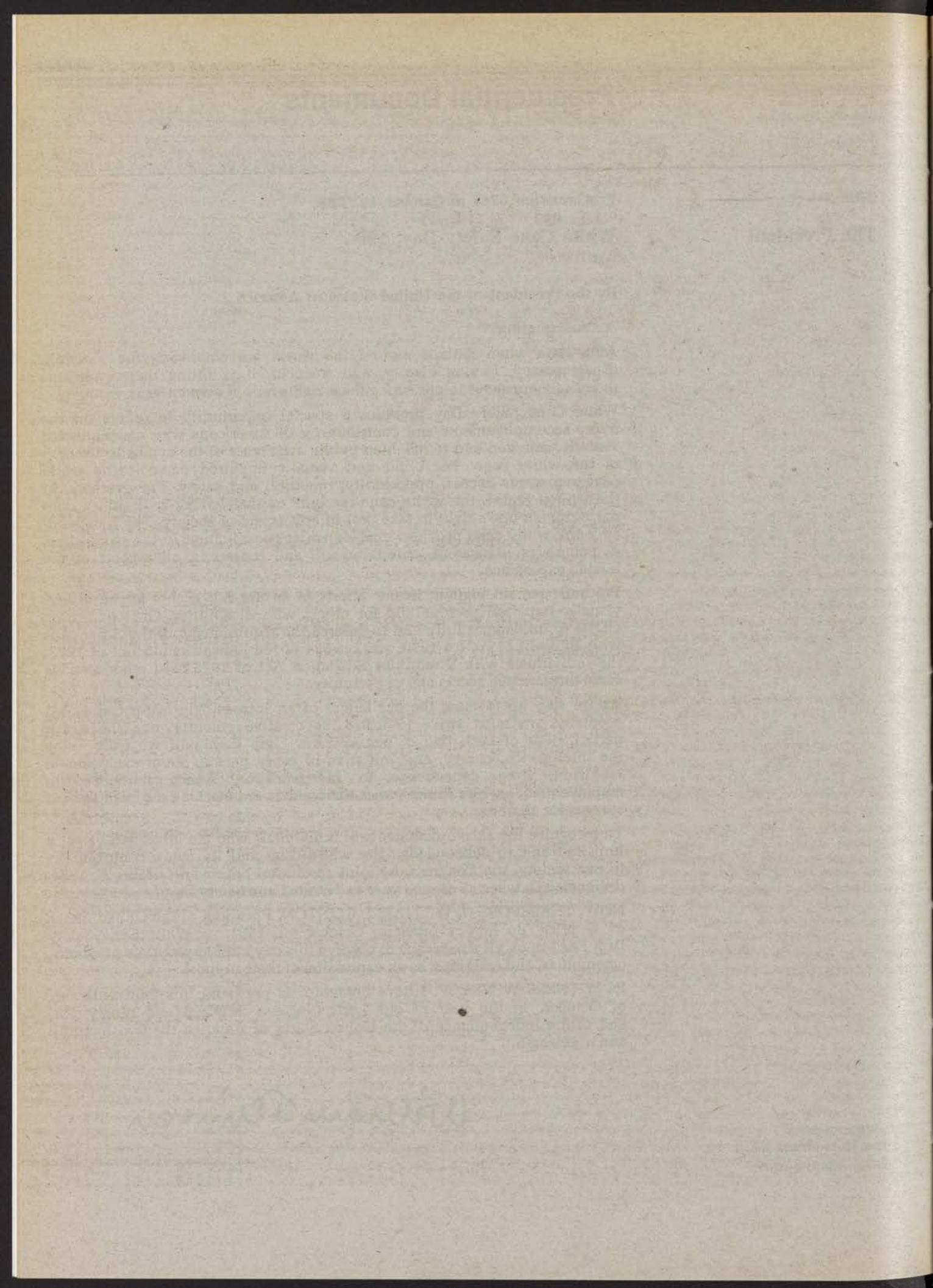
As we step up to meet the challenges of an increasingly fast-paced global economy, we must strive to foster the creative potential and the active participation of each one of our citizens. Only then will we truly enjoy the intelligence, energy, and initiative of every person. From exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, from paternalism to empowerment—white canes across the country are marking the path toward success for all of us.

To recognize the accomplishments of individuals who are blind and visually impaired and to acknowledge the white cane and its many contributions to our society, the Congress, by joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, designated October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1994, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, as an expression of their support.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.





Presidential Documents

Proclamation 6742 of October 14, 1994

Country Music Month, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Country music is a distinctly American treasure, drawing on the deepest cultural roots of our Nation's people. It reflects a storytelling impulse born of mountain balladry and cowboy songs. It combines an exciting instrumental texture of string bands and jazz orchestras, a heartfelt vocal style of religious and blues singing, and a contagious rhythm that inspires dancing in listeners of all ages.

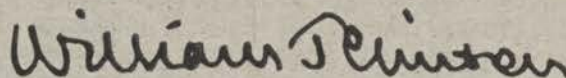
The emotions of the myriad peaks and valleys of life find a vibrant voice in country music. Relating experiences all of us share, these songs boast a long and proud tradition in our national heritage. For the better part of our history, country music's many talented singers and songwriters from across the land have touched the hearts and minds of our citizens—rural and urban, rich and poor, young and old. Today, this wonderful art form is enjoyed and celebrated around the world as a uniquely American gift.

This month, we pause to commend and to appreciate the efforts of singers, songwriters, musicians, and all those in this thriving industry who work to maintain the vitality of the country music legacy.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-107, has designated October 1994 as "Country Music Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month. I urge all Americans to join me in recognizing the rich contributions that country music has made to our cultural heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1994 as Country Music Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.



Presidential Documents

1. January 1971

2. February 1971

3. March 1971

4. April 1971

5. May 1971

6. June 1971

7. July 1971

8. August 1971

9. September 1971

10. October 1971

11. November 1971

12. December 1971

13. January 1972

14. February 1972

15. March 1972

16. April 1972

17. May 1972

18. June 1972

19. July 1972

20. August 1972

Presidential Documents

Proclamation 6743 of October 14, 1994

National Character Counts Week, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

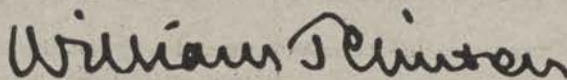
Our concern about character and ethics is one of the great strengths of our Nation. In 1994, America celebrates the continuing creation of and support for programs that, by definition, are character-building—from our proud military units and law enforcement groups to our new National Service program, AmeriCorps. As we seek to instill important values in a new generation of Americans, we must redouble our efforts to improve student learning, responsibility, and sense of belonging. We must revitalize the American ideal of community if our schools are to achieve their full potential. Adults, children, teachers—all of us must set an example. All of us can make a new beginning.

Schools need to emphasize the fundamentals: building character and creating a stronger sense of self-worth. The process of building moral values begins with the family, and we must all aid parents by demonstrating to our young people that hard work, honesty, and responsibility are essential in all of our endeavors. Passage of the "Goals 2000: Educate America Act" will, in the years ahead, give parents, teachers, and concerned citizens in every local school district the opportunity to come together to define what they want their schools to achieve for their children, not just through high academic standards, but also through setting high standards of compassion, understanding, and community involvement. New civic standards addressing the entire community, in addition to voluntary national standards, will serve as catalysts in this process, helping to better educate students to be more responsible citizens in the years to come.

To recognize the importance of character and to focus national attention on character building, the Congress, by Public Law 103-301, has designated October 16 through October 22, 1994, as "National Character Counts Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this commemoration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 16 through October 22, 1994 as National Character Counts Week. I call upon the people of the United States, government officials, educators, and volunteers, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.



Presidential Documents

National Character: Goals Week 1961

By the President of the United States

A Proclamation

That the President of the United States, in his capacity as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, and in his capacity as the highest executive officer of the Government, has the honor to announce to the people of the United States that he has signed the following Executive Order:

Executive Order 11061, signed on May 22, 1961, which directs the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct a study of the national character of the United States, and to report to the President on or before September 1, 1961, the results of such study.

The President is confident that the results of this study will be of great value to the people of the United States, and that it will help to define the national character of the United States in a more accurate and complete manner than has been possible in the past.

The President is also confident that the results of this study will be of great value to the people of the United States, and that it will help to define the national character of the United States in a more accurate and complete manner than has been possible in the past.

The President is confident that the results of this study will be of great value to the people of the United States, and that it will help to define the national character of the United States in a more accurate and complete manner than has been possible in the past.

William J. Clinton

Presidential Documents

Proclamation 6744 of October 14, 1994

National Forest Products Week, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's National Forests grace more than 191 million acres of our land. Thirty-four million of those acres are part of our wilderness preservation system, which works to safeguard this invaluable resource for future use and enjoyment. The American National Forests are among our country's greatest gifts—gifts we share with all of Earth's creatures today and with generations of new life to come.

One of our Nation's foremost priorities must be to ensure that forest ecosystems are maintained and protected. With proper care, these precious lands can remain healthy, diverse, and resilient. We are moving toward a new era in the stewardship of public lands. Today, we recognize the importance of taking a comprehensive approach—one that balances the needs of our people and of the environment. Grounded in sound science and compliance with existing law, sustainable forest management presents our best hope for saving the more than 250 threatened or endangered species of fish, animals, and plants that have made this land their home. At the same time, such management efforts offer our best chance for building a lasting and productive economic base for the people who have made this land their life and livelihood.

America's National Forests provide for our Nation in countless ways—from the houses we live in to the newspapers we read to our spiritual and physical well-being—the splendor and glory of nature's gift to America enriches our daily lives immeasurably. National Forest visitors enjoy more than 4,300 miles of wild and scenic rivers for fishing, swimming, or just taking in the view. Wood and paper products from forests are our country's leading renewable natural resource, accounting for about 4.2 percent of our Gross Domestic Product and 8.5 percent of all manufacturing in the United States, and supporting more than 1.7 million American workers. Taxol, taken from the bark of certain trees, has been found effective in treating some forms of cancer. Althea, balsam gum, dill oil, and Indian breadroot are just a few examples of products used for medicinal purposes. Beargrass and white birch bark are used for basketmaking and chair caning. Dandelion, fern, and salmonberry shoots are used for cooking spices, aromatics, animal bedding, and for dyes and tanning that are a source of income for citizens across the country.

In recognition of the central role our forests play in the long-term welfare of our Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 163), has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 16, 1994, as National Forest Products Week and call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

[FR Doc. 94-26309

Filed 10-19-94; 1:41 pm]

Billing code 3195-01-P

Presidential Documents

Proclamation 6745 of October 14, 1994

National Penny Charity Week, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Individual acts of kindness are the currency of social change. Combined with others and directed toward a worthwhile cause, these efforts exemplify the spirit of volunteerism. Inspired by just such a vision of service, organizations throughout the country are coming together this week to recycle pennies for charitable causes.

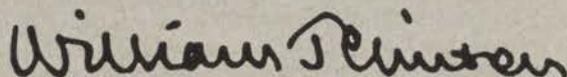
The penny is the most widely used of the denominations currently in circulation, but pennies too often rest idle in piggy banks and dresser drawers. The U.S. Mint—which will produce another 13.3 billion pennies this year to meet demands—joins me in encouraging citizens to help return pennies to circulation.

With the holiday season approaching, this is a better time than ever to remember those who are in need of a helping hand. By contributing pennies to charities and worthy community causes, we can make this season a little brighter for our fellow citizens and truly make every penny count.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 415, has designated the week of October 16, 1994, as "National Penny Charity Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 16, 1994, as National Penny Charity Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including the donation of pennies to charities, particularly those that provide direct services to our Nation's underprivileged and disadvantaged population, and to worthy community causes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.



William F. Johnson

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 59, No. 203

Friday, October 21, 1994

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents. Prices of new books are listed in the first FEDERAL REGISTER issue of each week.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Electrification Administration

7 CFR Part 1755

Specification for Outside Plant Housings and Serving Area Interface Systems

AGENCY: Rural Electrification Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) is amending its regulations on telecommunications standards and specification for materials, equipment and construction by codifying REA's specification for outside plant housings and serving area interface systems. The new specification informs manufacturers and users of outside plant housings and serving area interface systems of the engineering and technical requirements that are considered necessary for satisfactory performance in outside plant environments. A significant requirement of the specification involves the changing of the bonding and grounding system associated with outside plant housings from a 14 gauge system to a 6 gauge system. The change to the 6 gauge bonding and grounding system will help to assure that REA housings will be manufactured in compliance with recognized industry safety standards which will result in improved electrical protection of outside plant telephone equipment, craft personnel, and the public to hazardous voltages.

DATES: Effective date: November 21, 1994.

Compliance date: Manufacturers of outside plant housings and serving area interface systems will be allowed until July 21, 1995, to supply borrowers with products already produced or currently in the process of manufacturing.

Incorporation by reference: Incorporation by reference of certain

publications listed in this final rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of November 21, 1994.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Garnett G. Adams, Chief, Outside Plant Branch, Telecommunications Standards Division, Rural Electrification Administration, room 2844, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1500, telephone number (202) 720-0667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and therefore has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Administrator of REA has determined that this final rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities, as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). This final rule involves standards and specifications, which may increase the direct short term costs to REA borrowers. However, the long-term direct economic costs are reduced through greater durability and lower maintenance over time.

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

In compliance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations (5 CFR part 1320) which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-511) and section 3504 of that Act, the information collection and recordkeeping requirements contained in this final rule have been approved by OMB under control number 0572-0059. Comments concerning these requirements should be directed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for USDA, room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC, 20503.

National Environmental Policy Act Certification

The Administrator of REA, has determined that this final rule will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, this action does not require an

environmental impact statement or assessment.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The program described by this final rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.851, Rural Telephone Loans and Loan Guarantees, and No. 10.852, Rural Telephone Bank Loans. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Executive Order 12372

This final rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation that requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. A Notice of Final rule titled Department Programs and Activities Excluded From Executive Order 12372 (50 FR 47034) exempts REA and RTB loans and loan guarantees, and RTB bank loans, to governmental and nongovernmental entities from coverage under this Order.

Executive Order 12778

This final rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. If adopted, this final rule will not: (1) Preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies; (2) Have any retroactive effect; and (3) Require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit challenging the provisions of this rule.

Background

REA issues publications titled "Bulletin" which serve to guide borrowers regarding already codified policy, procedures, and requirements needed to manage loans, loan guarantee programs, and the security instruments which provide for and secure REA financing. REA issues standards and specifications for the construction of telephone facilities financed with REA loan funds.

REA has rescinded REA Bulletin 345-26, REA Specification for Buried Plant Housings, PE-35, dated July 23, 1976, and REA Bulletin 345-77, REA Specification for Serving Area Interface Housings, PE-79, dated January 24, 1978. REA is incorporating and updating the information previously contained in those bulletins in 7 CFR 1755.910, REA Specification for Outside

Plant Housings and Serving Area Interface Systems.

The specification contains mechanical, electrical, and environmental requirements, desired design features, and test methods for evaluation of outside plant housings and serving area interface systems.

The test procedures described in the specification are required to demonstrate the functional reliability of outside plant housings and serving area interface systems. The test procedures satisfy the requirements of housings as well as the requirements of terminals that may be installed within housings.

Outside plant housings are fabricated of either metallic or nonmetallic materials in different sizes and configurations to suit a variety of applications. The purpose of a housing is to protect its contents from environmental elements, rodents, insects, or vandalism and unauthorized access. Outside plant housings accommodate cable splices, bonding and grounding connections, cable terminals, cross-connect facilities, load coils, and optical and electronic equipment.

Serving area interface systems serve as the connecting terminal between feeder cable and distribution cables.

A significant requirement of 7 CFR 1755.910 involves the changing of the bonding and grounding system of outside plant housings from a 14 gauge system to a 6 gauge system. The change to the 6 gauge bonding and grounding system in the housings will help to assure that REA housings will be manufactured in compliance with recognized industry safety standards that are considered critical to the protection of outside plant telephone equipment, craft personnel, and the public.

Comments

On September 1, 1993, REA published a proposed rule at 58 FR 46110 on 7 CFR 1755.910, REA Specification for Outside Plant Housings and Serving Area Interface Systems. Comments on this proposed rule were due October 1, 1993. Comments and recommendations were received from several companies by this date. The comments, recommendations and responses are summarized as follows:

One respondent recommended that paragraph (d)(3)(xxx) of this section be changed to allow the use of locknuts as well as nuts with captive lock washers.

Response: REA has reviewed the recommendation. The requirement for the captive studs and nuts with captive lock washers was initiated in a letter to all Telephone Borrowers by Mr. Michael

M.F. Liu, Acting Administrator, dated April 24, 1992. Captive studs and nuts with captive lock washers replaced the spade clip and terminal as the means for grounding and have proven to be very efficient. Because of concern that the locknut will become loose after repeated lifting of ground connections on cables that require frequent locating, REA will not change the requirement in this paragraph.

One respondent recommended that paragraph (d)(6)(v) be modified to add color 4.4GY 6.74/1.5 under the gray-green color.

Response: REA has reviewed the recommendation and as a result of the review will add color 4.4GY 6.74/1.5 under the gray-green color as proposed by the commenter.

Several clarifying and editorial changes in paragraphs (d)(3)(v), (d)(3)(vii), and (d)(3)(xiii) were made in response to comments from two respondents. These changes did not alter the intent or technical requirements of the affected paragraphs.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1755

Incorporation by reference, Loan programs—communications, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rural areas, Telephone.

For reasons set out in the preamble, REA is amending chapter XVII of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 1755—TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

1. The authority citation for part 1755 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, 1921 *et seq.*

2. Section 1755.98 is amended by adding a new entry to the table in numerical order to read as follows:

§ 1755.98 List of telephone standards and specifications included in other 7 CFR parts.

Section	Issue date	Title
1755.910	November 21, 1994	REA Specification for Outside Plant Housings and Serving Area Interface Systems.

3. Section 1755.910 is added to read as follows:

§ 1755.910 REA specification for outside plant housings and serving area interface systems.

(a) *Scope.* (1) The purpose of this specification is to inform manufacturers and users of outside plant housings and serving area interface (SAI) systems of the engineering and technical requirements that are considered necessary for satisfactory performance in outside plant environments. Included are the mechanical, electrical, and environmental requirements, desired design features, and test methods for evaluation of the product.

(2) The housing and terminal requirements reflect the best engineering judgment available at the present time and may be subject to change due to advances in technology, economic conditions, or other factors.

(3) The test procedures described in this section are required by REA to demonstrate the functional reliability of the product. However, other standard or unique test procedures may serve the same function. In such cases, REA shall evaluate the test procedures and results on an individual basis.

(4) The test procedures specified herein satisfy the requirements of housings as well as the requirements of terminals that may be installed within housings. Some of the requirements are interrelated to several tests designed to determine the performance aspects of terminals and are directly affected by testing required for housings. Therefore, the manufacturer should carefully review all the test requirements in order to develop a testing schedule that is comprehensive, efficient in terms of the number of test specimens required and can be accomplished in an orderly and logical sequence.

(5) The specified tests may require special facilities to comply with Federal, State, or local regulatory requirements. Some test procedures are potentially hazardous to personnel because of the high voltages and mechanical forces involved. Safety precautions are necessary to prevent injury.

(6) Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) 94, Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances, fourth edition, dated June 18, 1991, referenced in this section is incorporated by reference by REA. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. A copy of the UL standard is available for inspection during normal business hours at REA, room 2845-S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1500 or at the Office of the Federal

Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC. Copies are available from UL Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-2096, telephone number (708) 272-8800.

(7) The American Society for Testing and Materials Specifications (ASTM) A 109-91, Standard Specification for Steel, Strip, Carbon, Cold-Rolled; ASTM A 153-82 (Reapproved 1987), Standard Specification for Zinc Coating (Hot-Dip) on Iron and Steel Hardware; ASTM A 366/A 366M-91, Standard Specification for Steel, Sheet, Carbon, Cold-Rolled, Commercial Quality; ASTM A 525-91b, Standard Specification for General Requirements for Steel Sheet, Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) by the Hot-Dip Process; ASTM A 526/A 526M-90, Standard Specification for Steel Sheet, Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) by the Hot-Dip Process, Commercial Quality; ASTM A 569/A 569M-91a, Standard Specification for Steel, Carbon (0.15 Maximum, Percent), Hot-Rolled Sheet and Strip Commercial Quality; ASTM A 621/A 621M-92, Standard Specification for Steel, Sheet and Strip, Carbon, Hot-Rolled, Drawing Quality; ASTM B 117-90, Standard Test Method of Salt Spray (Fog) Testing; ASTM B 539-90, Standard Test Methods for Measuring Contact Resistance of Electrical Connections (Static Contacts); ASTM B 633-85, Standard Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings of Zinc on Iron and Steel; ASTM D 523-89, Standard Test Method for Specular Gloss; ASTM D 610-85 (Reapproved 1989), Standard Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Rusting on Painted Steel Surfaces; ASTM D 822-89, Standard Practice for Conducting Tests on Paint and Related Coatings and Materials using Filtered Open-Flame Carbon-Arc Light and Water Exposure Apparatus; ASTM D 1535-89, Standard Test Method for Specifying Color by the Munsell System; ASTM D 1654-92, Standard Test Method for Evaluation of Painted or Coated Specimens Subjected to Corrosive Environments; ASTM D 1693-70 (Reapproved 1988), Standard Test Method for Environmental Stress-Cracking of Ethylene Plastics; ASTM D 2197-86 (Reapproved 1991), Standard Test Method for Adhesion of Organic Coatings by Scrape Adhesion; ASTM D 2247-92, Standard Practice for Testing Water Resistance of Coatings in 100% Relative Humidity; ASTM D 2565-92, Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc-Type Light-Exposure Apparatus With and Without Water for Exposure of Plastics; ASTM D 2794-92, Standard Test Method for Resistance of Organic Coatings to the Effects of Rapid Deformation (Impact); ASTM D 3928-

89, Standard Test Method for Evaluation of Gloss or Sheen Uniformity; ASTM D 4568-86, Standard Test Methods for Evaluating Compatibility Between Cable Filling and Flooding Compounds and Polyolefin Cable Materials; ASTM G 21-90, Standard Practice for Determining Resistance of Synthetic Polymeric Materials to Fungi; and ASTM G 23-90, Standard Practice for Operating Light-Exposure Apparatus (Carbon-Arc Type) With and Without Water for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials, referenced in this section are incorporated by reference by REA. These incorporations by references were approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 7 CFR part 51. Copies of the ASTM standards are available for inspection during normal business hours at REA, room 2845-S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1500 or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC. Copies are available from ASTM, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1187, telephone number (215) 299-5585.

(b) *General information.* (1) Outside plant housings are fabricated of either metallic or nonmetallic materials in different sizes and configurations to suit a variety of applications. The purpose of a housing is to protect its contents from environmental elements, rodents, insects, or vandalism and unauthorized access. Housings are designed with internal brackets for accommodating splicing, bonding and grounding connections, cable terminals, cross-connect facilities, load coils, and optical and electronic equipment.

(2) Pedestals are housings primarily intended to house, organize, and protect cable terminations incorporating terminal blocks, splice connectors and modules, ground lugs and load coils. Activities typically performed in a pedestal are cable splicing, shield bonding and grounding, inductive loading, and connection of subscriber drops.

(3) Serving area interface (SAI) cabinets are housings intended to perform some of the same functions as pedestals but are primarily intended to serve as the connecting terminal between feeder cable and distribution cables.

(4) Outside plant housings shall be manufactured in accordance with National Electrical Code (NEC) requirements, Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) requirements, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards (OSHA), and all other

applicable Federal, State, and local requirements including, but not limited to, statutes, rules, regulations, orders, or ordinances otherwise imposed by law.

(c) *General documentation requirements.* (1) *Installation and maintenance instructions.* (i) Each product shall have available a set of instructions designed to provide sufficient information for the successful installation of the housing, cables, auxiliary equipment, and the associated splice preparation. The instructions shall be of sufficient size to be easily read and shall be printed using waterproof ink. Pedestal instruction sheets shall include a list of miscellaneous replacement parts that may be purchased locally. SAI systems shall be supplied with complete instructions for installation and use.

(ii) When requested by REA, or an REA borrower, the manufacturer shall prepare a training package for the purpose of training technicians in the use and installation of the product and its auxiliary equipment.

(iii) The manufacturer shall provide ordering information for repair parts. Repair parts shall be obtainable through a local distributor or shall be easily obtainable. Information describing equivalent parts and their sources should be provided for those parts that may also be obtained from other sources.

(2) *Quality assurance.* The manufacturer shall demonstrate the existence of an ongoing quality assurance program that includes controls, procedures, and standards used for vendor certification, source inspection, incoming inspection, manufacture, in process testing, calibration and maintenance of tools and test equipment, final product inspection and testing, periodic qualification testing and control of nonconforming materials and products. The manufacturer shall maintain quality assurance records for five years.

(3) *REA acceptance applications.* (i) The tests described in this specification are required for acceptance of product designs and major modifications of accepted designs. All modifications shall be considered major unless otherwise declared by REA. The tests are intended to show the inherent capability of the manufacturer to produce products which have an expected service life of 30 years.

(ii) For initial acceptance the manufacturer shall:

- (A) Submit an original signature certification that the product complies with each section of the specification;
- (B) Provide qualification test data;

(C) Provide OSHA Material Safety Data Sheets for the product;

(D) Provide a detailed explanation concerning the intended use and capacity of the product;

(E) Provide a complete set of instructions, recommendations for equipment organization and splicing;

(F) Agree to periodic plant inspections;

(G) Provide a certification that the product does or does not comply with the domestic origin manufacturing provisions of the "Buy American" requirements of the Rural Electrification Act of 1938 (52 Stat. 818);

(H) Provide user testimonials concerning field performance of the product;

(I) Provide product samples if requested by REA; and

(J) Provide any other data required by the Chief, Outside Plant Branch (Telephone).

(iii) Each requirement of this section must be addressed in submissions for acceptance. The designation N/A may be entered when the requirements do not apply.

(iv) Acceptance requests should be addressed to: Chairman, Technical Standards, Committee "A" (Telephone), Telecommunications Standards Division, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, DC 20250-1500.

(d) *Functional design criteria for housings*—(1) *General requirements.* (i) The functional requirements for housings concern materials, finishes, environmental factors, and design features that are applicable to most above ground housings used in the outside plant.

(ii) Housings shall be of sufficient size to permit easily managed installation, operational, testing, and maintenance operations. The general shape of outside plant housings is usually comparable to that of a rectangular column or cylinder, with the shape of any particular housing being left to the manufacturer's discretion. Each design is subject to acceptance by REA.

(2) *Housing types and capacities.* (i) Housings used in outside plant are either the smaller housings generally known as pedestals or larger housings known as equipment or splice cabinets. Both categories may have designs intended for stake mounting, pole mounting, or pad mounting.

(ii) The classifications of pedestals are the general purpose channel Type (H) and the dome Type (M). The Type H pedestal has either front only access or back and front access while the Type M pedestal has top only access. Pedestals are further designated as follows:

Stake mounted	Type	Pole mounted	Pole mounted (extra high)
BD3	H	BD3A	
BD4	H	BD4A	
BD5	H	BD5A	
BD7	H	BD7A	
BD14	M	BD14A	BD14AG
BD15	M	BD15A	BD15AG
BD16	M	BD16A	BD16AG

(iii) The minimum volume associated with the pedestal designations shall be as shown in the following table:

Pedestal ¹ housing designation	Minimum volume	
	Cubic centimeters cm ³	(Cubic inches) (in. ³)
BD3, BD3A ²	9,000	(550)
BD4, BD4A ²	15,000	(900)
BD5, BD5A ²	35,000	(2,100)
BD7 ⁽²⁾	72,000	(4,400)
BD14, BD14A, BD14AG ³	9,000	(550)
BD15, BD15A, BD15AG ³	27,000	(1,600)
BD16, BD16A, BD16AG ³	38,000	(2,300)

Note 1: Housings designed for unique purposes will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Note 2: For Type H pedestals, the minimum volume is that space as measured 5 centimeters (cm) (2 inches (in.)) below the top of the housing to a point 40 cm (16 in.) above the bottom of the lower cover plate.

Note 3: The minimum volume of the Type M pedestals shall be the space within the dome measured from the lower edge of the dome to a point 5 cm (2 in.) from the top.

(iv) Equipment cabinets intended for use as SAI housings shall be assigned size designations according to their maximum pair termination capacities. The capacity will vary depending on the type of terminating equipment used. SAI cabinets shall be suffix designated with an "A" for pole mounting, "X" for pad mounting, and "S" for stake mounting.

(v) Large pair count splice cabinets are classified according to their splice capacity. Approximately 48 cm³ (3.0 in.³) of splice area per pair straight spliced shall be permitted.

(vi) The minimum volume associated with large pair count splice cabinets shall be as shown in the following table:

Splice cabinet ¹ designation	Minimum volume		Maximum splice capacity (pairs)
	(cm. ³)	(in. ³)	
BD6000	295,000	(18,000)	6,000
BD8000	393,000	(24,000)	8,000

Splice cabinet ¹ designation	Minimum volume		Maximum splice capacity (pairs)
	(cm. ³)	(in. ³)	
BD10000	491,000	(30,000)	10,000

Note 1: Additional sizes of splice cabinets shall be considered by REA on a case-by-case basis.

(3) *Design and fabrication requirements for housings.* (i) Type H pedestal housings may consist of an enclosed channel incorporating an integrally mounted stake that serves as a backplate, or they may be designed for universal mounting on stakes or poles. The body of the housing shall have two major components; an upper cover and a base cover. The upper cover shall have a top, front and back plate with the front cover removable to permit entry and provide increased work space. The base cover shall consist of a front plate and back plate. The base cover back plate may be an extension of the upper back plate cover.

(ii) Type M pedestal housings shall consist of a one piece upper sleeve designed to fit over the base cover trapping air to prohibit water from entering the splice area when installed in locations prone to temporary flooding. Pedestals designed to be mounted extra high on poles for locations susceptible to deep snow shall have a bottom close-off option available to prohibit the ingress of birds, rodents and insects.

(iii) The external housing components on all outside plant housings shall provide reasonable protection against accidental removal or vandalism. Housings shall be equipped with a cover plate retaining bolt and cup washer that may be opened only with an industry accepted socket type can wrench. Housings may be equipped with provisions to allow the purchaser to install a padlock.

(iv) Installed housings shall resist the disassembling force of frost heaving applied to the bottom of ground line cover plates. The base cover must remain stationary to stabilize the contents of the housing cavity.

(v) In an effort to provide protection against dust penetration, blowing snow, rain, and ultraviolet light degradation of internal components, all mechanical gaps shall be restricted. The use of seals, overlaps, gaskets, and/or dovetailing is required to assure satisfactory protection of housed equipment.

(vi) Knockouts, cutouts, or notches designed to accommodate aerial service drops shall not be permitted. A design option for housings intended to accommodate service drops shall

include a separate channel or equivalent in the base cover to allow future additions of service drops without the removal of gravel or the moisture barrier in the base of the housing. Service wire channels must be designed to prevent the entry of birds, reptiles, rodents and insects.

(vii) Minimal venting of SAI housings may be necessary to relieve internal pressure and condensation.

(viii) There shall be no aluminum housing components that will become buried in the soil when the housing is properly installed.

(ix) Housing components may be assembled using rivets, welds, glue, bolts and nuts, or other techniques suitable for the materials involved.

(x) Housings and their components that require field assembly must be capable of being assembled with tools normally available to outside plant technicians.

(xi) Hinged doors on SAI housings and large pair count splice housings shall be equipped with a device that restrains the doors in the open position.

(xii) Outside plant housings shall be free of sharp edges, burrs, etc., that could present a safety hazard to personnel involved in installation and use of the product or to the general public. Surfaces inside housings must not allow pinching of conductors during installation of cover plates or the opening and closing of doors.

(xiii) A ground line mark shall be provided, approximately 15 cm (6 in.) below the top edge of the housing base cover plate on housings intended for ground level mounting. Base cover plates shall have a minimum height of 31 cm (12 in.).

(xiv) Any housing, which weighs in excess of 91 kilograms (kg) (200 pounds (lb)), including its contents, shall be equipped with lifting brackets for attaching hoisting cables or chains.

(xv) Housing stakes shall be a minimum of 107 cm (42 in.) in length. If fabricated from steel, they shall have a minimum thickness of No. 13 gauge as measured according to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) A 525-91b. Stakes shall be formed into a "U" channel with a minimum depth of 2 cm (0.75 in.). The stake shall be a single part of suitable design strength for driving 91 cm (36 in.) into the soil with hand tools without damage such as bending or warping. The stake shall have adequate mounting holes having a minimum separation of 15 cm (6 in.) for mounting the housing baseplate. The stake material must resist corrosion and deterioration when exposed to soil and atmospheric conditions.

(xvi) The housing design must permit a logical progression of installation steps that would normally be encountered in typical field installations.

(xvii) Provisions for attaching housings to stakes, poles, walls, other housings, or pads shall be provided for each design intended for those purposes. Locations of holes for mounting attachments may be provided by knockouts on above ground components. Mounting hole locations for below ground components may be predrilled.

(xviii) Pole mounting hardware shall provide at least 1.3 cm (0.5 in.) clearance from the pole to the housing. Pole mounting brackets shall accommodate the wide range of pole sizes used in the telephone industry.

(xix) Pad-mounted housings shall have hardware available for anchoring the housing base to the pad. A template may be provided to assist in the location of mounting attachment details for pad preparation.

(xx) Housings equipped with stub cables shall have strain relief devices to permit shipping and handling of the housing without damage to the housing or stub cables. Only REA accepted cable shall be used for stub cables. The cable manufacturer's recommendations concerning minimum bend radius shall be observed. The minimum bend radius for most copper cables is 10 times the cable diameter.

(xxi) Cable supports shall be provided near the top of the ground line cover and other appropriate locations within the housing to provide cable stability consistent with the intended use and capacity of the housing. Cable supports shall be capable of holding a minimum load of 23 kg (50 lb).

(xxii) An adequate supply of nonmetallic retainer clips or tie wraps capable of supporting a minimum load of 23 kg (50 lb) shall be provided with the housing. Adequate spaces for installation of the clips or tie wraps must be provided on the housing backplate and cable supports.

(xxiii) Housing chambers designed for splicing operations shall be equipped with insulated supporting straps or rods suitable for supporting splice bundles. The insulation on the straps or rods shall extend for the entire length of the device and shall have a dielectric strength of 15 kilovolts (kv) direct current (dc) minimum. Housings having an "H" frame design where both front and rear covers may be removed may incorporate insulated tie bars to be used as cable supports.

(xxiv) Housings designed to contain equipment in addition to splices shall

be equipped with a device for physically separating the splice area from the service area of the housing.

(xxv) A dielectric shield rated at 15 kv dc shall be provided to enclose the cable splice area. The shield shall extend from the lower cable supports to within 2.5 cm (1 in.) of the top of the housing. The shield shall be equipped with Velcro or equivalent fastening devices designed to hold the shield in both the open or closed positions. The fastening devices shall extend along the entire vertical edge of the dielectric shield.

(xxvi) Mounting arrangements for a variety of terminal blocks and other equipment shall be provided by means of good housekeeping panels or other devices that may enhance the service aspect of the housing.

(xxvii) Housings designed for SAI cabinets may be shipped with terminal blocks installed and stub cables attached. If this option is exercised, the stub cables and terminal blocks must be REA accepted. In all cases, SAI cabinets must be equipped with appropriate mounting devices for installing the peripheral equipment required for a serving area interface.

(xxviii) SAI cabinets shall be designed to provide physical separation between the splicing area and the area provided for running cross-connect jumpers.

(xxix) SAI cabinets and large splice housings must have an external feature for attaching a padlock to prevent unauthorized entry.

(xxx) Each housing shall have a tinned or zinc electroplated copper alloy or equivalent connector plate or bar to be used for terminating ground and cable shield bond connections. The device shall be equipped with captive studs and nuts with captive lock washers designed for attaching 6 American Wire Gauge (AWG) copper bonding harness wire or braid and a 6 AWG copper ground wire. Connector plates shall be equipped with enough studs and nuts to provide individual connections equivalent to the maximum number of cable sheaths recommended for the housing. Housings shall incorporate design features that enable the field installation of at least one additional connector plate for service conditions that require numerous connections. A bonding and grounding system capable of providing support and strain relief for service wires shall be provided for housings intended for use as distribution points. The bonding system shall be designed to provide sheath continuity as cable and service wires are installed, and prior to any other operation being performed. The bonding arrangement shall provide electrical continuity between all bonds

and the ground connector plate. The bonding and grounding arrangement shall permit the lifting of individual cable ground connections for testing and cable locating activities without jeopardizing the grounding potential of other cables that may enter the housing. The bonding and grounding system shall be capable of conducting a current of 1000 amperes for at least 20 seconds.

(4) *Warning sign.* (i) A buried cable warning sign shall be securely attached to the outside of each housing. The

lettering information on the sign shall be permanent.

(ii) For pedestals, the sign shall be centered horizontally on the front cover and the top of the sign shall be not more than 10 cm (4 in.) from the top of the housing.

(iii) For SAI cabinets, the sign shall be centered horizontally and vertically on the door. If there are two doors, the sign shall be mounted on the left door.

(iv) Deviations from warning sign location requirements are permitted

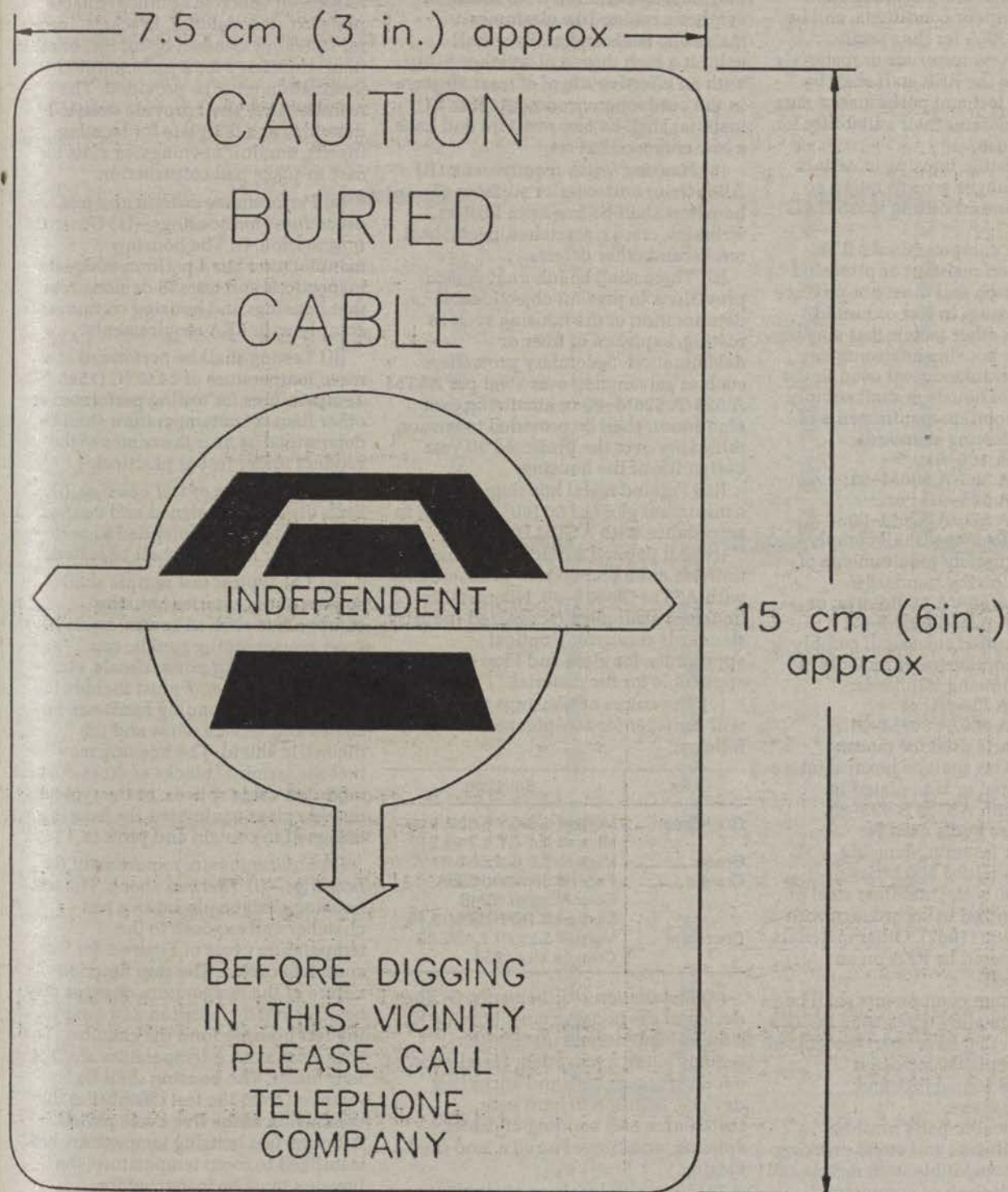
only for housing design constraints. Alternate sign locations will be considered by REA.

(v) The REA standard sign design is shown in Figure 1.

(5) *Housing materials.* (i) Materials used in housings shall present no environmental or safety hazard as defined by industry standards or Federal, State, or local laws and regulations. Figure 1 is as follows:

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FIGURE 1
WARNING SIGN



(ii) All materials are required to have fire resistance ratings consistent with recognized industry standards. External materials must be flame resistant.

(iii) All materials used in the manufacture of housings or component parts must achieve the required strength properties, resist deterioration when exposed to outdoor conditions, and be acceptable to REA for the specific application. New materials or materials not familiar to the REA staff shall be supported by test and performance data which demonstrates their suitability for the intended use.

(iv) Nonmetallic housing materials shall have a fungus growth rating no greater than one according to ASTM G 21-90.

(v) Metallic components shall be either corrosion resistant or protected against corrosion and must not produce galvanic corrosion in wet or humid conditions on other metals that may be present in the housing environment.

(vi) Mill galvanized steel used in the manufacture of housings shall comply with the appropriate requirements of one of the following standards:

- (A) ASTM A 109-91;
- (B) ASTM A 366/A 366M-91;
- (C) ASTM A 525-91b; or
- (D) ASTM A 526/A 526M-90.

(vii) Hot rolled steel shall comply with the appropriate requirements of one of the following standards:

- (A) ASTM A 569/A 569M-91a; or
- (B) ASTM A 621/A 621M-92.

(viii) Cold rolled steel shall comply with the appropriate requirements of one of the following standards:

- (A) ASTM A 109-91; or
- (B) ASTM A 366/A 366M-91.

(ix) Steel parts used for internal housing brackets shall be hexavalent chromate coated or zinc plated in accordance with ASTM B 633-85.

(x) Hardware items used for assembling or fastening housing components shall be 300 series or passivated 400 series stainless steel or hot dip galvanized in accordance with ASTM A 153-82 (1987). Other materials will be considered by REA on an individual basis.

(xi) Aluminum components shall be fabricated from alloy types 5052 or 6061 or other types that have been recognized as having acceptable corrosion resistance and formability and weldability features.

(xii) Nonmetallic parts must be resistant to solvents and stress cracking and shall be compatible with metals and other materials such as conductor insulations and filling compounds used in the manufacture of cable. Plastic materials must be noncorrosive to metals and resist deterioration when

exposed to industrial chemical pollutants, ultra-violet rays, road salts, cleaning agents, insecticides, fertilizers, or other detrimental elements normally encountered in the outdoor environment.

(xiii) Housing door seals and gaskets may be manufactured from rubber or synthetic rubber-like elastomer materials. Seals and gaskets shall exhibit a high degree of weatherability with an effective life of at least 30 years in the outdoor environment. The material shall be tear resistant and have a low compression set.

(6) *Housing finish requirements.* (i) All interior and exterior surfaces of housings shall be free from blisters, wrinkles, cracks, scratches, dents, heat marks, and other defects.

(ii) There shall be inherent design provisions to prevent objectionable deterioration of the housing such as rusting, exposure of fiber or delamination. Secondary protection, such as galvanizing over steel per ASTM A 526/A 526M-90 or anodizing over aluminum, shall be provided to ensure reliability over the projected 30 year design life of the housing.

(iii) Painted metal housings shall have a minimum gloss of 60 (60° specular) in accordance with ASTM D 523-89.

(iv) All painted surfaces shall have a uniform color and texture in accordance with ASTM D 3928-89. Nonmetallic housings shall meet recognized industry standards concerning optical appearance for gloss and haze as applicable for the material.

(v) The colors of housings that REA will consider for acceptance shall be as follows:

Color	Standard
Gray-Green ..	Munsell 6.5 GY 6.03/1.6 Munsell 4.4 GY 6.74/1.5
Green	Munsell 8.2 G 2.65/5.3
Orange	Federal Standard 595A Color Number 12246 Munsell 0.15YR 5.26/13.15
Chocolate	Munsell 5.27YR 2.40/2.60 Color Number 835

(7) *Installation requirements.* (i) The design of the housing must provide for a logical and normal installation sequence, i.e., excavation, installation of a foundation or base and anchoring devices, addition of hardware, installation and bonding of cables, splicing, addition of service, and final closing.

(ii) No special tools or equipment other than that usually carried by outside plant technicians and construction crews must be required for installation of the housing. Security

devices are the exception to this requirement.

(iii) Installation hardware shall maintain housings in an erect and stable position when subjected to normal storm loads. Pad-mounted designs must accommodate precast or cast-in-place reinforced concrete or other suitable prefabricated material. Brackets, inserts for fastening, conduit openings, or other items necessary for a pad-mounted installation must be provided. The manufacturer shall provide detailed drawings or a template for locating inserts, conduit openings, or slots for cast-in-place pad construction.

(e) *Performance criteria and test procedures for housings—(1) General information.* (i) The housing manufacturer shall perform adequate inspections and tests to demonstrate that housings and housing components comply with REA requirements.

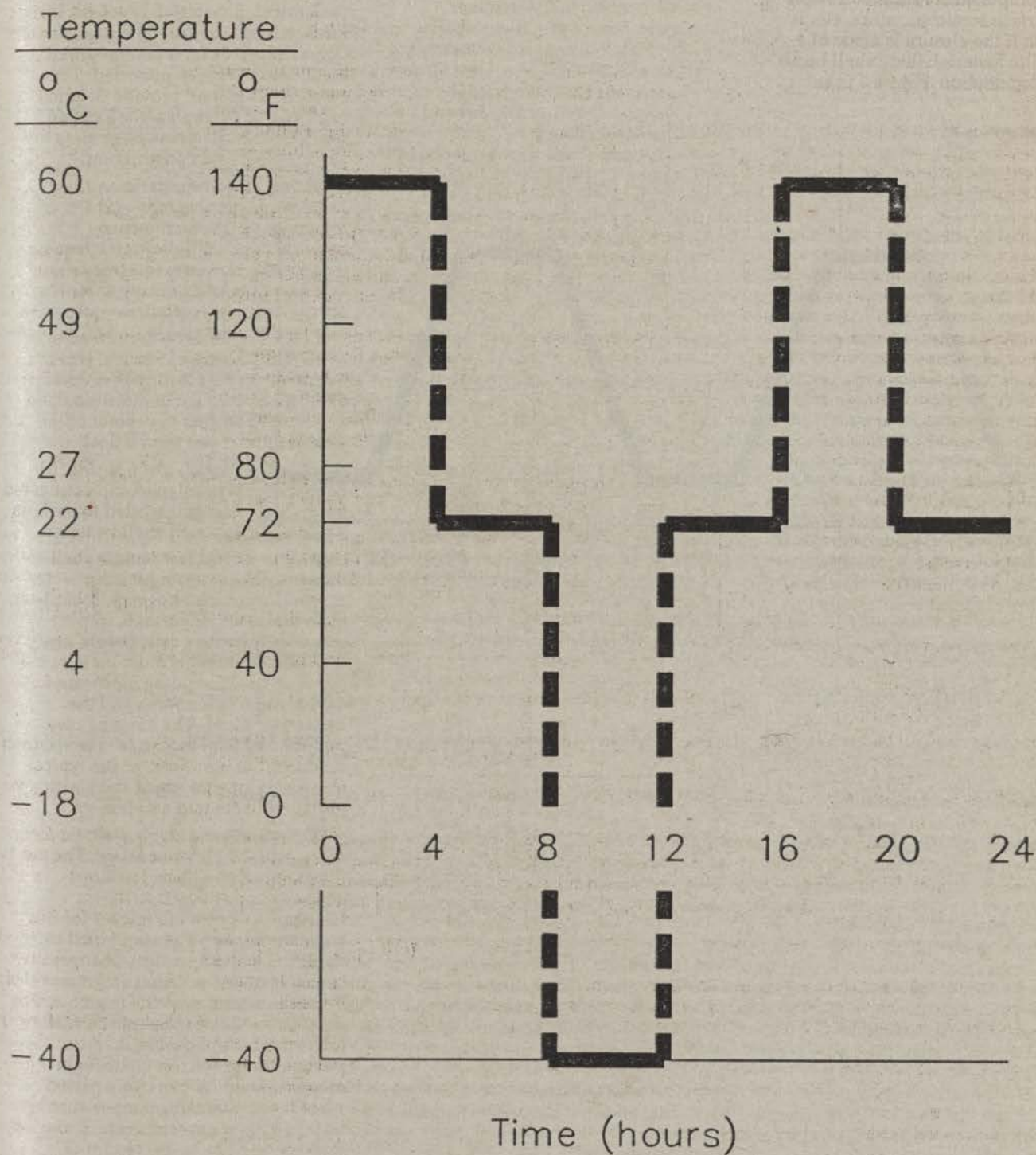
(ii) Testing shall be performed at a room temperature of 24 ± 3 °C (75 ± 5 °C). Temperatures for testing performed at other than room temperature shall be determined as near the center of the product under test as practical.

(2) *Description of test housing.* (i) Each distinctly designed and configured family of housings intended to perform a particular function shall be tested.

(ii) The typical test sample shall consist of the exterior housing components such as covers, backplates, good housekeeping panels, cap assembly, anchor posts, decals, etc. Interior components must include the bonding and grounding hardware for cables and service wires and the dielectric shield. The housing may include terminal blocks or cross-connect modules, cable splices, or the typical outside plant equipment the housing is designed to contain and protect.

(3) *Environmental requirement for housings—(i) Thermal shock.* The test housing shall be placed in a test chamber and exposed to the temperature cycle of Figure 2 for five complete cycles. The step function nature of the temperature changes may be achieved by insertion and removal of the test housing from the chamber. The soak time at each temperature shall be four hours. The housing shall be removed from the test chamber at the conclusion of the five-cycle period. After the test housing temperature has stabilized to room temperature, the housing must be inspected for deterioration of materials and satisfactory operation of mechanical functions. Figure 2 is as follows:

FIGURE 2
THERMAL SHOCK TEMPERATURE CYCLE



(ii) *Thermal shock and humidity.* The test housing shall be placed in an environmental test chamber at 95 ± 3 percent (%) relative humidity (RH) and temperature cycled per Figure 3 for a period of 30 days. At the end of the test there shall be no rust or corrosion of any closure components. Minor corrosion due to surface scratches, nicks, etc. is permitted. If the closure is made of a nonmetallic material, there shall be no signs of degradation. Figure 3 is as follows:

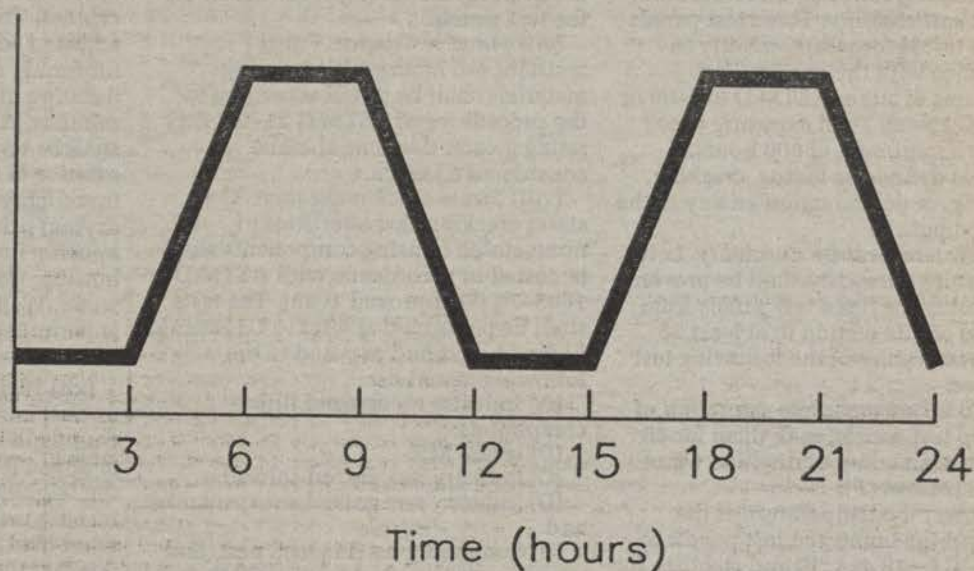
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FIGURE 3

ENVIRONMENTAL TEST CHAMBER
TEMPERATURE CYCLE

Temperature

°C	°F
60	140
49	120
38	100
27	80
16	60
4	40
-7	20



Note: Relative Humidity = 95% ± 3%

(iii) *Humidity and condensation.* Test panels shall be placed in an environmental chamber and subjected to 1,008 hours (42 cycles) of exposure per ASTM D 2247-92. One cycle consists of 24 hours of 100% humidity (with condensation on the panels) at a cabinet temperature of 38 ± 1 °C (100 ± 2 °F) and an ambient temperature of 25 ± 1 °C (77 ± 2 °F) without heat input. Upon completion of cycling, the test panels shall be subjected to an 11 newton-meter (N-m) (100 pound-inches (lb-in.)) impact test using the Gardner-Impact Tester or equivalent. Test panels shall show no substrate or coating cracking or loss of coating adhesion on either side.

(iv) *Weatherability.* Three test panels shall be tested for weatherability in accordance with the appropriate procedures of either ASTM D 822-89 or ASTM G 23-90. Total exposure time shall be a minimum of 800 hours. Failure is defined as fading, cracking, blistering, or delamination on any of the three test panels.

(v) *Low temperature durability.* Low temperature durability shall be proven by exposing the three test panels from (e)(3)(iv) of this section to at least 25 continuous cycles of the following test sequence:

(A) To insure complete saturation of the three test panels, soak them for 96 hours in a container of distilled water 22 ± 2 °C (71.6 ± 4 °F);

(B) Lower the temperature of the water and the immersed test panels to -28 ± 2 °C (-18.4 ± 4 °F) and stabilize for 24 hours;

(C) Thaw the water with the samples to 22 ± 2 °C (71.6 ± 4 °F) and stabilize for 24 hours;

(D) Repeat the procedure 24 times. Any cracking, crazing, deforming, or delaminating on any of the three test panels shall be considered a failure; and

(E) Remove the samples from the water and impact test the three panels by delivering a force of 11.3 N-m (100 lb-in.) using a Gardner-Impact Tester to each specimen at 71, 22, and -28 ± 2 °C (159.8, 71.6, and -18.4 ± 4 °F), after stabilizing them at those temperatures for at least two hours. Visual inspection shall reveal no deformation or perforations on any of the test panels.

(vi) *Corrosion resistance.* Corrosivity shall be tested in accordance with the requirements of ASTM B 117-90. Both scribed and unscribed panels shall be evaluated following the procedures of

ASTM D 1654-92. Scribed panels shall have a rating of at least six, following 500 hours of exposure to salt fog, and the unscribed panels shall have a rating no lower than 10, after 1,000 hours exposure. Visual rust inspection shall confirm no more than 0.03% rusting (rust grade 9) of the surface area of the test sample when evaluated in accordance with ASTM D 610-85(1989). The unscribed samples shall be impacted with an 11.3 N-m (100 lb-in.) force, using a Gardner-Impact Tester or equivalent. Visual inspection of the impacted samples shall reveal no loss of adhesion between the base material and the coating or cracking at the finish on the test panels.

(vii) *Fungi resistance.* Fungi resistance of nonmetallic housing materials shall be tested according to the procedures of ASTM G 21-90. Any rating greater than one shall be considered a failure.

(viii) *Stress crack resistance.* The stress cracking characteristics of nonmetallic housing components shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D 1693-70 (Reapproved 1988). The tests shall be performed at 49 ± 2 °C (120 ± 4 °F) for 14 days and exposed to the following materials:

- (A) Industry recognized filling compounds;
- (B) Isopar M;
- (C) Industry recognized solvents;
- (D) Industry recognized encapsulants; and
- (E) Commonly used insect, pest, and weed control products and agricultural fertilizers.

(ix) *Chemical resistance.* (A) Chemical resistance shall be determined by immersing representative nonmetallic material samples in each of the following solutions for 72 hours at 22 ± 2 °C (71.6 ± 4 °F):

- (1) 3% sulfuric acid;
- (2) 100 parts per million (ppm) trichloroethane in water;
- (3) 0.2 N sodium hydroxide; and
- (4) Unleaded high octane gasoline.

(B) There shall be no swelling, deformation, or softening of the material samples or any discoloration of the solution.

(x) *Ultraviolet resistance.* Test panels of metallic and nonmetallic outer housing materials shall be subjected to 700 hours exposure per ASTM D 2565-92 using the type BH apparatus. The panels shall not exhibit fading, blistering, checking, or delamination.

(xi) *Weather-tightness.* The housing shall be mounted in its typical field installation position and sprayed with water. The temperature of the water shall be adjusted to be equal to or warmer than the temperature of the cabinet interior to avoid the possibility of condensation. A water spray head shall be used to direct water at the housing so that the water stream will strike the assembly at a downward angle of 45 degrees. The flow of the water shall be 3.8 liters per minute (one gallon per minute), with 276 kilopascals (40 pounds per square inch) head of pressure. The spray head shall be held 1.8 meters (m) (6 feet (ft)) from the test cabinet. The spray head shall be adjusted so that water impinges uniformly over the housing surface. The duration of the test shall be five minutes. All vertical cabinet surfaces shall be tested by this procedure. The exterior of the cabinet shall be thoroughly dried with towels (no heat drying) prior to examination of the housing interior. The interior of the housing shall be checked for presence of water. Wetting of over-lapping surfaces is permitted. There shall be no presence of water inside the housing.

(xii) *Wind Resistance.* (A)(1) Stub pole or wall mounted SAI and large pair count splice housings shall be subjected to a load (F) as shown in Figure 4 and the following table to simulate the turning moment equivalent to a uniform wind load of 161 kilometers per hour (km/h) (100 miles per hour (mi/h)) perpendicular to the largest surface area.

Maximum area of largest surface square centimeters cm ² (Square inches) (in. ²)	Load	
	kg	(lb)
5,200 (800) or less	18	(40)
5,201 to 9,100 (801 to 1,400)	32	(70)
9,101 to 13,000 (1,401 to 2,000)	45	(100)
13,001 to 16,200 (2,001 to 2,500)	57	(125)

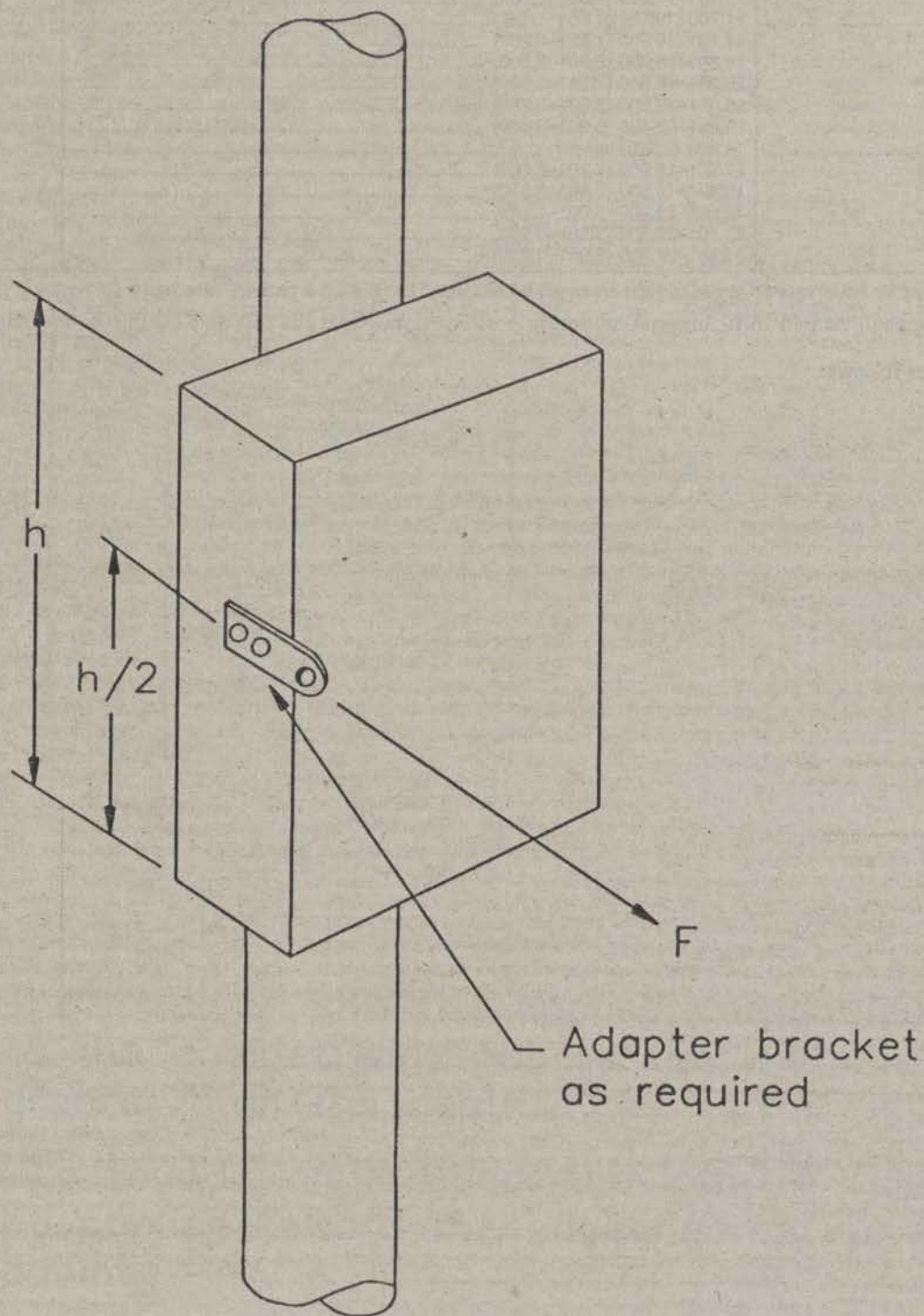
Note: The procedures for housings with larger surface area will be evaluated by REA on a case-by-case basis.

(2) The housing shall remain in its original mounting position throughout the test and exhibit no mechanical deformation.

(3) Figure 4 is as follows:

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FIGURE 4
TURNING MOMENT — POLE MOUNTED HOUSINGS



(B)(1) Pad or ground mounted SAI or splice housings shall be subjected to a load (F) as shown in Figure 5 and the following table to simulate the overturning moment equivalent to a uniform wind load of 161 km/h (100 mi/h) perpendicular to the largest surface area.

Height cm (in.)	Maximum area of largest surface cm ² (in. ²)	Load	
		kg	(lb)
122 (48) or less	11,000 (1,700) or less	91	(200)
	11,001-13,000 (1,701-2,000)	104	(230)
	13,001-14,900 (2,001-2,300)	118	(260)
123-152 (49-60)	11,700 (1,800) or less	91	(200)
	11,701-14,300 (1,801-2,200)	109	(240)
	14,301-16,200 (2,201-2,500)	127	(280)
	16,201-18,800 (2,501-2,900)	145	(320)
	18,801-20,800 (2,901-3,200)	163	(360)
	20,801-23,400 (3,201-3,600)	181	(400)
	14,300 (2,200) or less	109	(240)
153-183 (61-72)	14,301-16,900 (2,201-2,600)	127	(280)
	16,901-19,500 (2,601-3,000)	150	(330)
	19,501-22,700 (3,001-3,500)	172	(380)
	22,701-25,300 (3,501-3,900)	190	(420)
	25,301-27,900 (3,901-4,300)	213	(470)

Note: The procedures for housings with larger surface areas will be evaluated by REA on a case-by-case basis

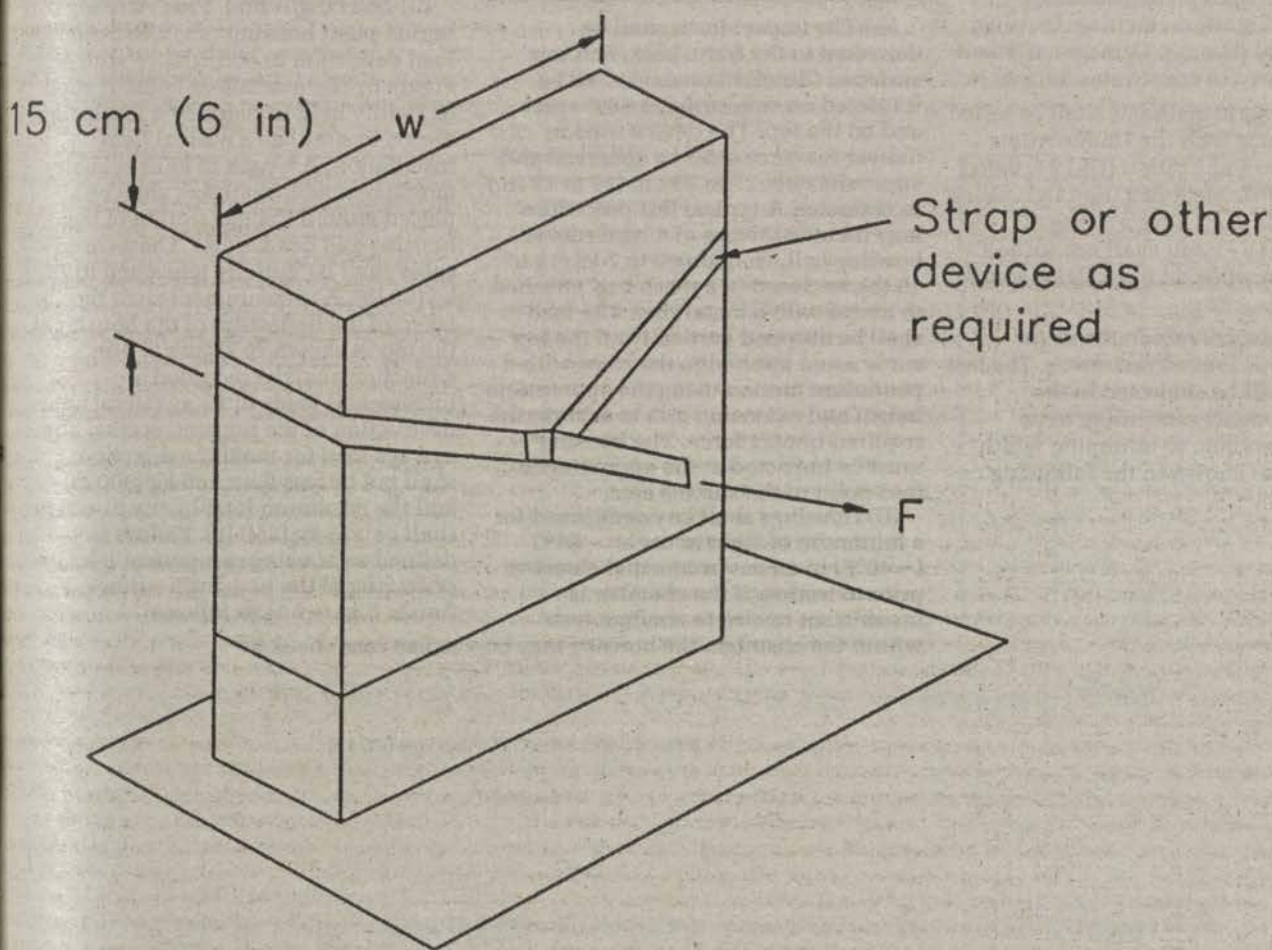
(2) The housing shall remain in its original mounting position throughout the test and exhibit no mechanical deformation.

(3) Figure 5 is as follows:

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FIGURE 5

OVERTURNING MOMENT, PAD MOUNTED HOUSINGS



Notes:

1. The load "F" shall be applied perpendicular to the cabinet width where the width is greater than the depth.
2. If a foundation is used, the load "F" shall be applied toward the edge nearest to the cabinet.

(xiii) *Fire resistance.* (A) The test housing shall be installed in a manner typical of field installation. U.S. No. 1 wheat straw shall be placed on the ground around the housing base in an one meter (3 ft) radius at an approximate depth of 10 cm (4 in.). The straw shall be ignited and permitted to burn fully. After the housing has cooled, its contents shall be inspected for evidence of ignition, melting, burning, or structural damage. Damage sufficient to impair service constitutes failure.

(B) Polymeric materials shall be tested in accordance with the Underwriters Laboratories Publication (UL) 94, dated June 18, 1991. Materials used in housing components shall have a rating of 94V-0 or 94V-1 and shall not sustain combustion when an open flame source is removed.

(4) *Mechanical requirements for housings—(i) Impact resistance.* The test housing shall be subjected to the following impacts according to its minimum volume or minimum width and depth as shown in the following table:

Minimum volume cm ³ (in. ³)	Minimum width or depth cm (in.)	Impact force	
		N-m	(lb-ft)
Less than 35,000 (2,100).	Less than 13 (5).	68	(50)
35,000 (2,100) or greater.	13 (5) or greater.	136	(100)

(A) The impact force shall be delivered to the front, back, and top surfaces. Circular housings shall be impacted on side surfaces 180° apart and on the top. The device used to deliver the force shall be spherical and approximately 25 to 31 cm (10 to 12 in.) in diameter. A typical test procedure may include the use of a hard rubber bowling ball, weighing 6 to 7 kg (13 to 16 lb), enclosed in a mesh bag, attached to a rope with a metal ring. The load shall be dropped vertically on the top surface and applied to the sides with a pendulum motion using the appropriate height and extension arm to achieve the required impact force. The housing must be impacted at the approximate mid-point of the surface area.

(B) Housings shall be conditioned for a minimum of eight hours at -40°C (-40°F) in an environmental chamber prior to testing. If the chamber is insufficient in size to conduct tests within the chamber, the housing may be

removed and shall be tested within 10 minutes after removal.

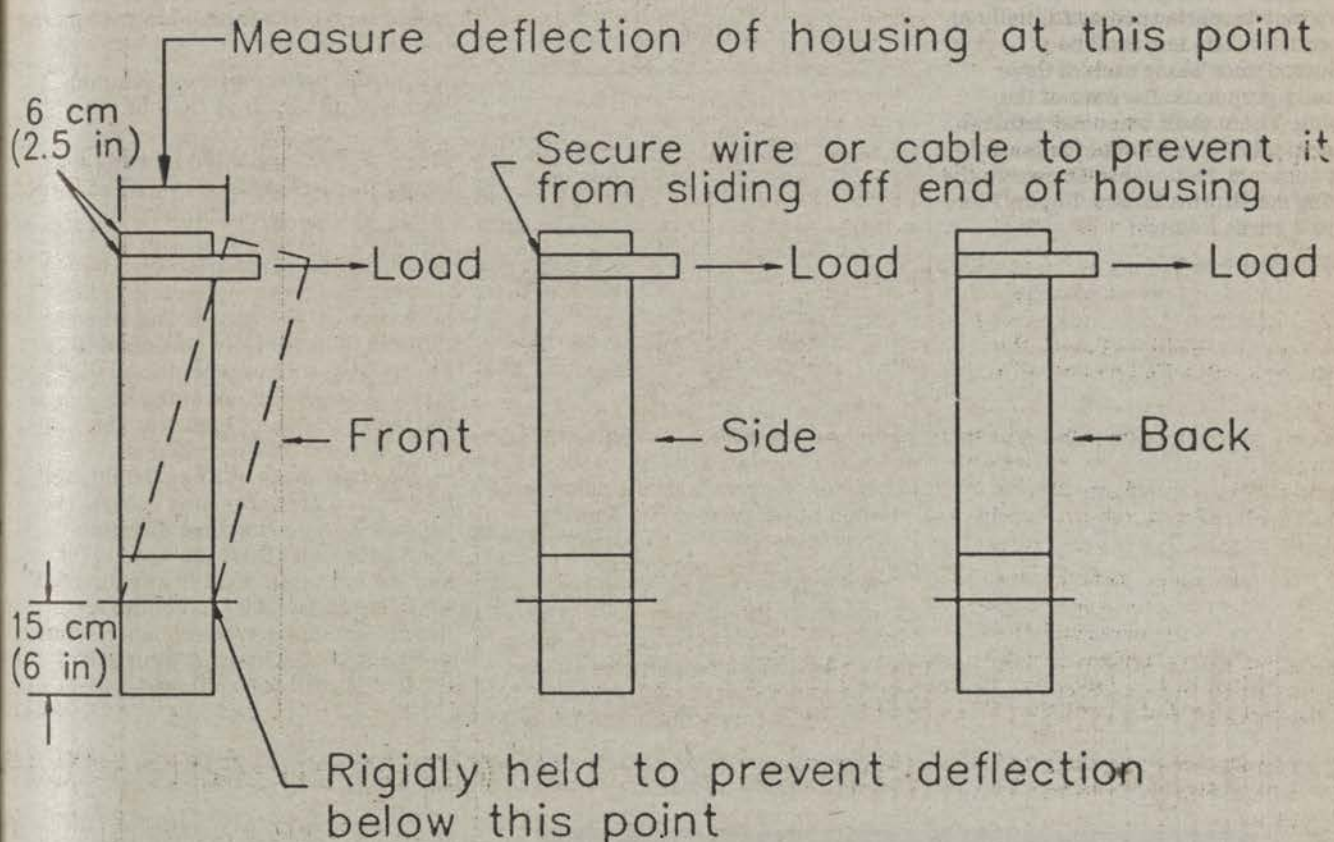
(C) After impact testing, the housing shall not exhibit fractured or ruptured surfaces sufficient to allow the ingress of moisture or dust. The housing shall not exhibit mechanical damage that would impair the functioning of hinges, latches, locks, etc.

(ii) *Load deflection.* Free standing buried plant housings shall be tested for load deflection in accordance with Figure 6. The assembled housing shall be rigidly held in place by a mechanical means to simulate a normal field installation. A length of wire or cable, or other suitable material, shall be placed around the top section of the housing and deadended. The wire or cable shall be initially tensioned to 23 kg (50 lb). A measurement shall then be taken of the deflection of the housing at the top as shown in Figure 6. The deflection shall be recorded at incremental loads of 23 kg (50 lb) until destruction of the housing occurs. The average load for the three directions shall not be less than 136 kg (300 lb) and the minimum load in any direction shall be 113 kg (250 lb). Failure is defined as housing component fracture or crazing of the housing's surface finish. Figure 6 is as follows:

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FIGURE 6

MEASURING LOAD DEFLECTION



Notes:

1. One pedestal-mounted housing of each BD classification shall be tested to failure in each of the directions shown above.
2. A total of three pedestal-mounted housings of each BD classification shall be subjected to the required loads in each direction.
3. The average load for the three directions shall not be less than 136 kilograms (300 pounds). The minimum load shall be 113 kilograms (250 pounds).
4. Pole mounted housings shall be subjected to the same loading criteria.

(iii) *Vibration requirements.* The test housing and its contents shall be subjected to acceleration at a sine wave frequency sweep rate as shown in Figure 7 for a housing packaged for shipment and Figure 8 for an unpackaged housing. The frequency sweep may be performed continually or sequentially. The test shall be conducted once along each of three mutually perpendicular axes of the housing. There shall be no mechanical or electrical degradation of the housing or its contents. Noticeable damage to the housing constitutes failure. Figure 7 and Figure 8 are as follows:

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FIGURE 7

VIBRATION TEST FOR PACKAGED HOUSINGS

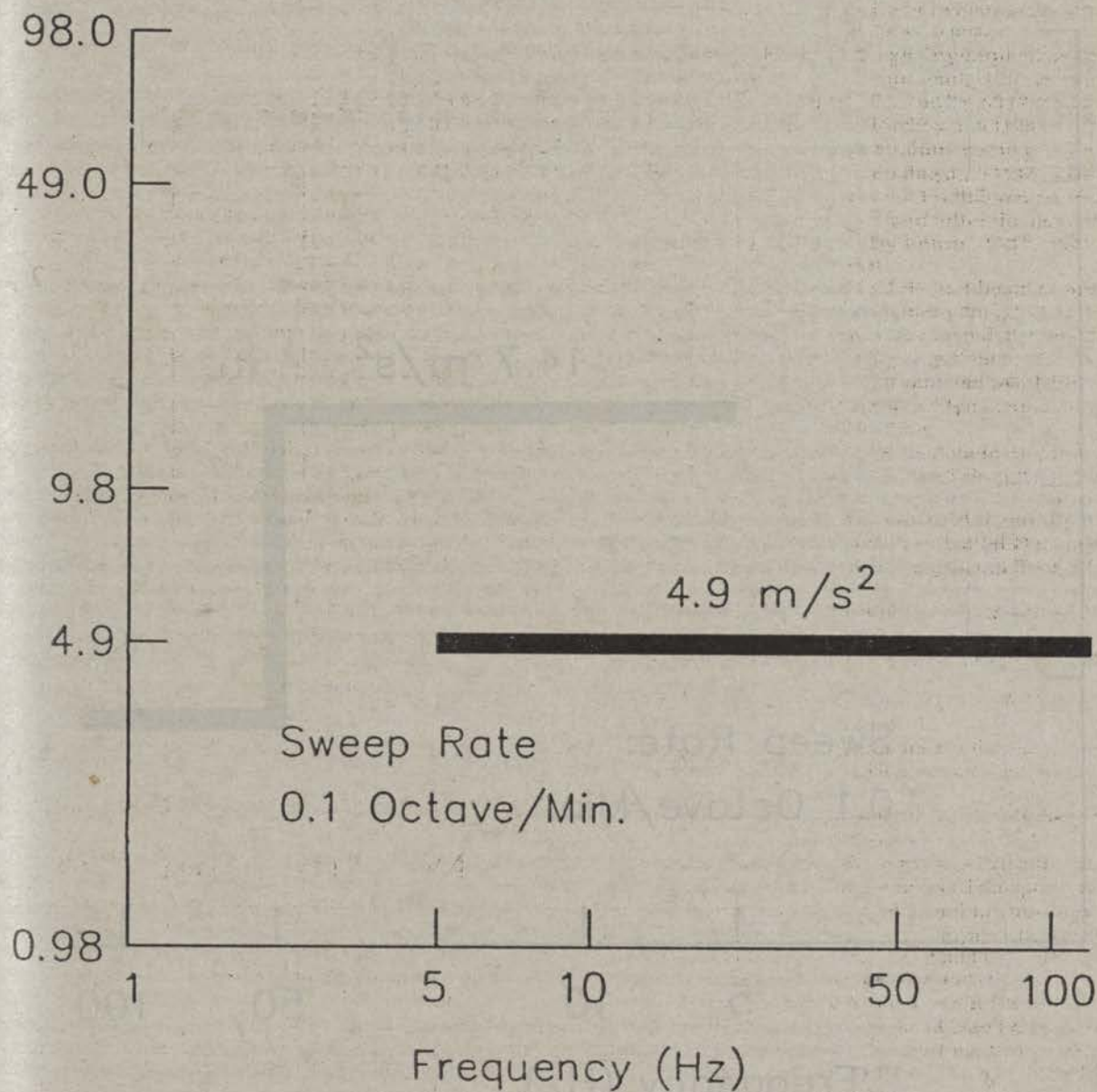
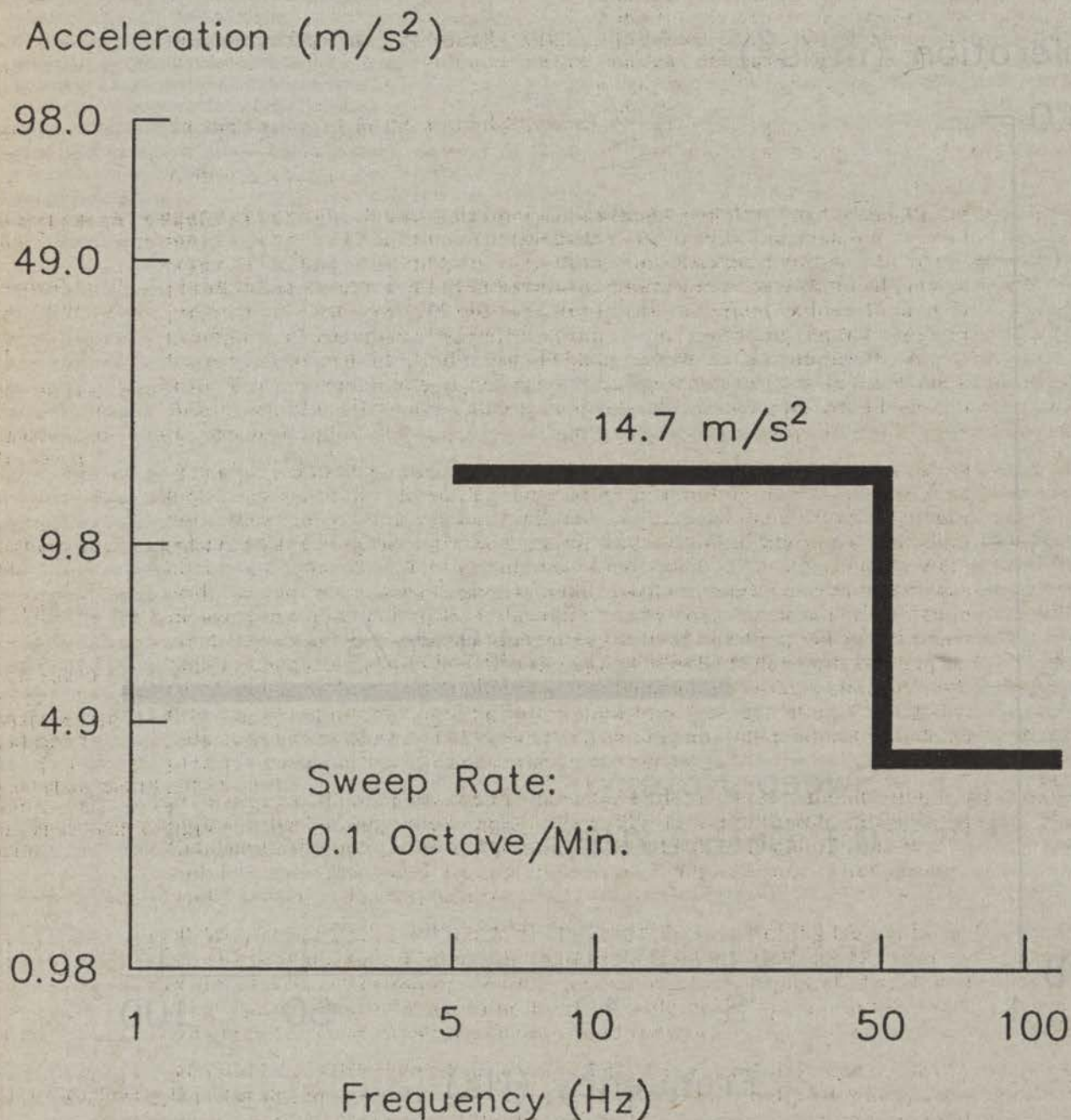
Acceleration (m/s^2)

FIGURE 8

VIBRATION TEST FOR UNPACKAGED HOUSINGS



(iv) *Drop test requirements.* Housings shall be subjected to appropriate drop tests according to their weight. The drop tests shall be performed on housings and their contents as normally packaged as well as on unpackaged housings. The tests shall be conducted on a smooth level concrete floor or similar unyielding surface. For corner drops, the packaged housing and its contents shall be oriented at impact such that a straight line drawn through the struck corner and package geometric center is approximately perpendicular to the impact surface.

(A) Packaged housings and their contents weighing 91 kg (200 lb) or less shall be capable of enduring a single

drop on each face or corner without damage from a height specified as follows:

Packaged housing including contents weight kg (lb)	Drop height cm (in.)
0 to 9 (0 to 20)	76 (30)
10 to 23 (21 to 50)	61 (24)
24 to 45 (51 to 100)	53 (21)
46 to 91 (101 to 200)	46 (18)

(B) Packaged housings and their contents weighing more than 91 kg (200 lb) shall be capable of enduring a single drop on each of two diagonally opposite corners of the package without significant damage from a height specified as follows:

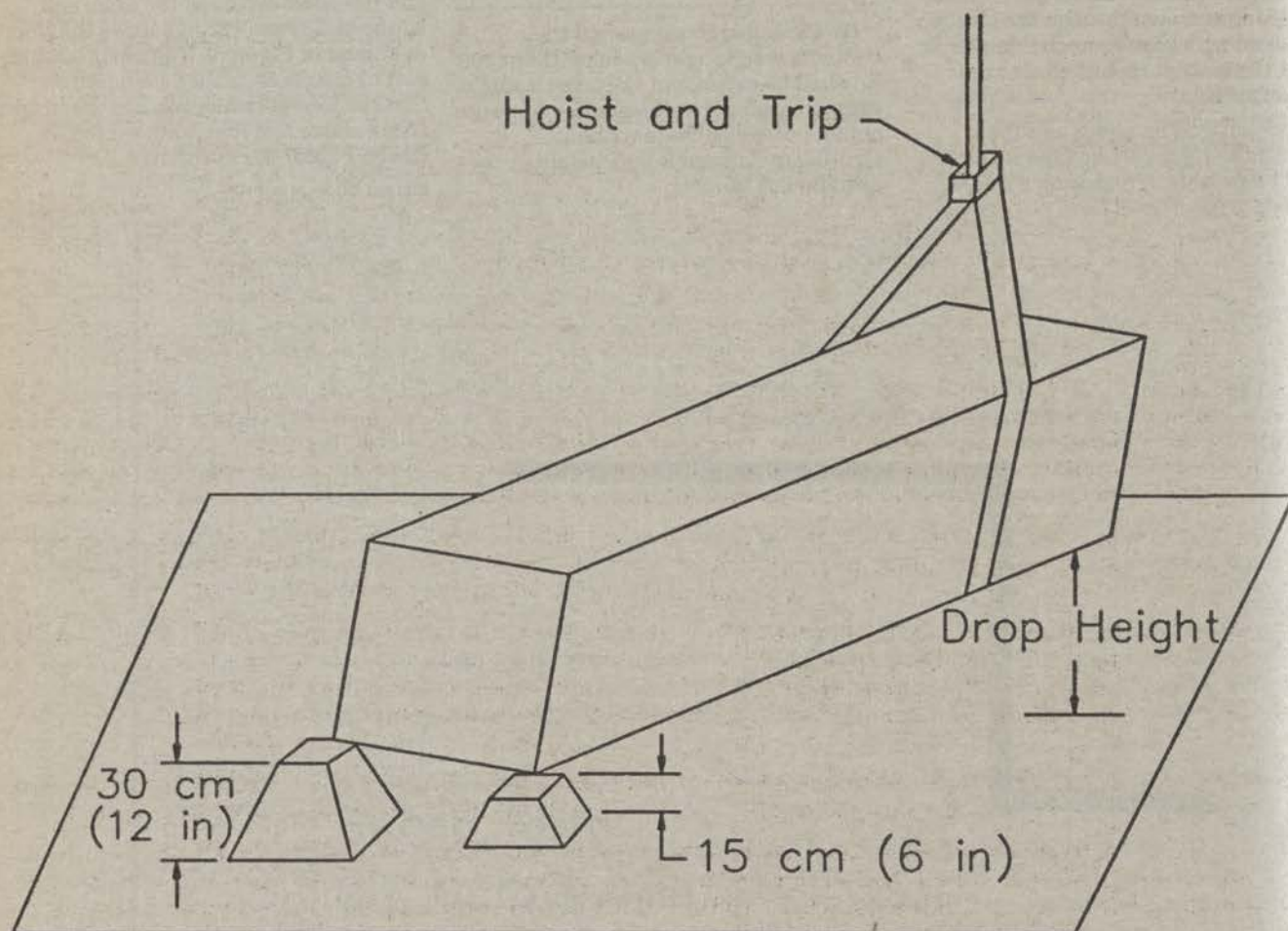
Packaged housing including contents weight kg (lb)	Drop height cm (in.)
92 to 453 (201 to 1000)	30 (12)
Over to 453 (1000)	15 (6)

(1) The packaged housing and contents shall be placed on its normal shipping base with one corner supported 15 cm (6 in.) above the floor and the other corner of the same end supported 30 cm (12 in.) above the floor as shown in Figure 9. The unsupported end of the package shall be raised so that the lowest corner reaches the height listed above and then allowed to fall freely. Figure 9 is as follows:

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FIGURE 9

CORNER DROP TESTS FOR PACKAGED HOUSINGS
WEIGHING MORE THAN 91 KILOGRAMS (200 POUNDS)



(2) The procedure of paragraph (e)(4)(iv)(B)(1) of this section shall be repeated for the diagonally opposite corner.

(3) The packaged housing and contents shall be capable of enduring a single drop on each edge of the base of its normal shipping position from the required height without damage and shall remain operational without function impairment. The packaged housing and contents shall be placed on its base with one edge supported on a sill 15 cm (6 in.) high and the unsupported edge raised to the required height as shown in Figure 10 and allowed to fall freely. Figure 10 is as follows:

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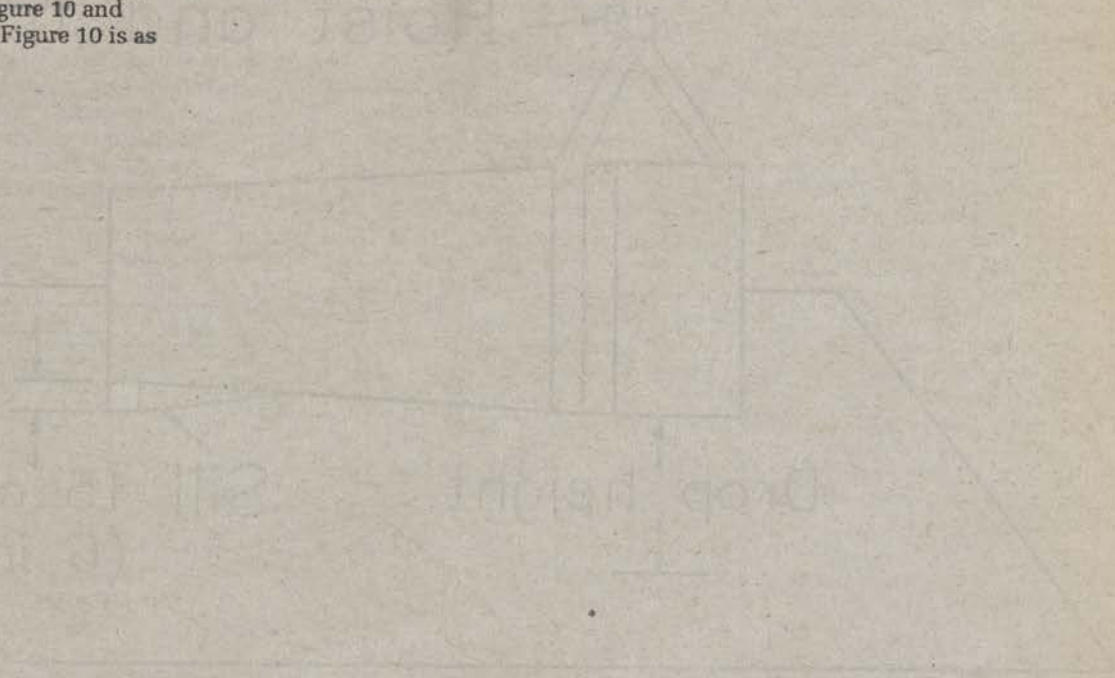
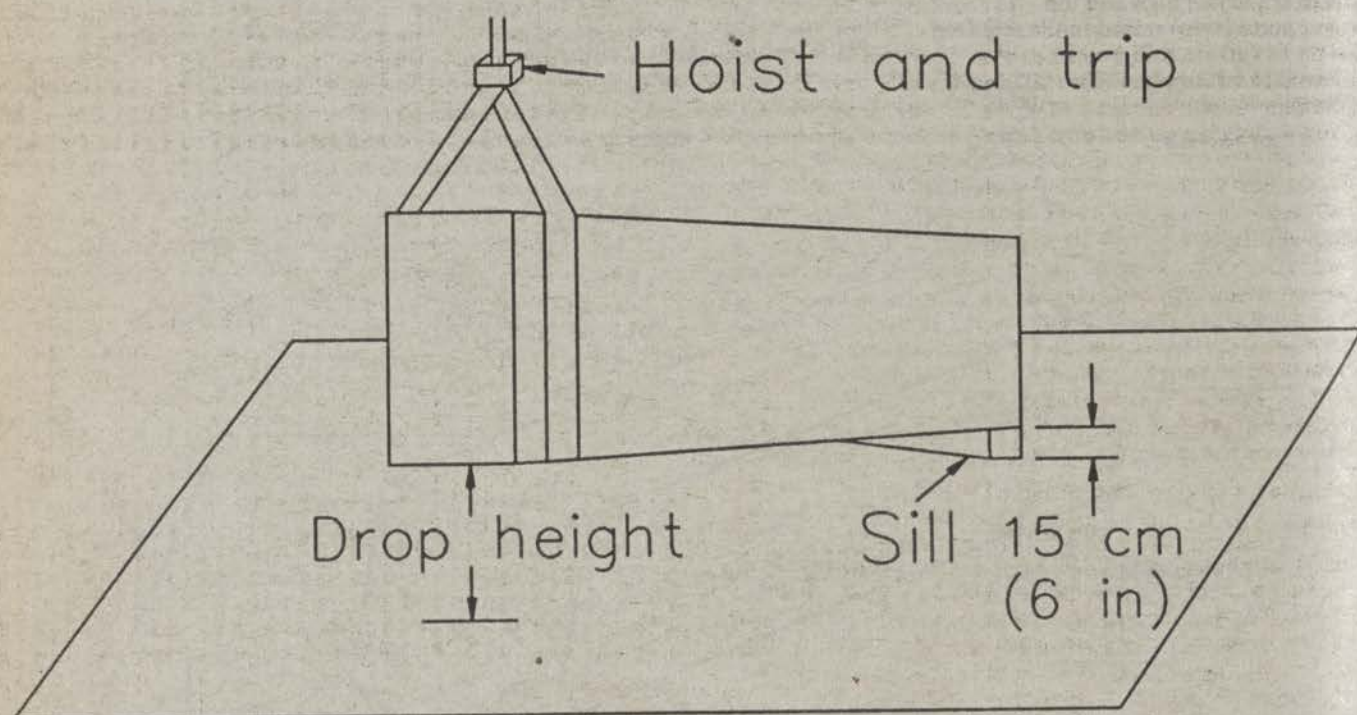


FIGURE 10

EDGE DROP TEST FOR PACKAGED HOUSINGS
WEIGHING MORE THAN 91 KILOGRAMS (200 POUNDS)



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(4) The procedure of (e)(4)(iv)(B)(3) of this section shall be repeated for all edges of the base.

(C) Unpackaged housings and their contents weighing 23 kg (50 lb) or less shall be capable of enduring a single drop on each face and adjacent corners without significant damage from a height specified as follows:

Packaged housing including contents weight kg (lb)	Drop height cm (in.)
0 to 9 (0 to 20)	10 (4)
10 to 23 (21 to 50)	8 (3)

(D) (1) Unpackaged housings and their contents weighing more than 23 kg (50 lb) shall be capable of enduring a single drop without significant damage when lifted by its normal hoisting supports as shown in Figure 11 and with its lowest point at a height specified as follows:

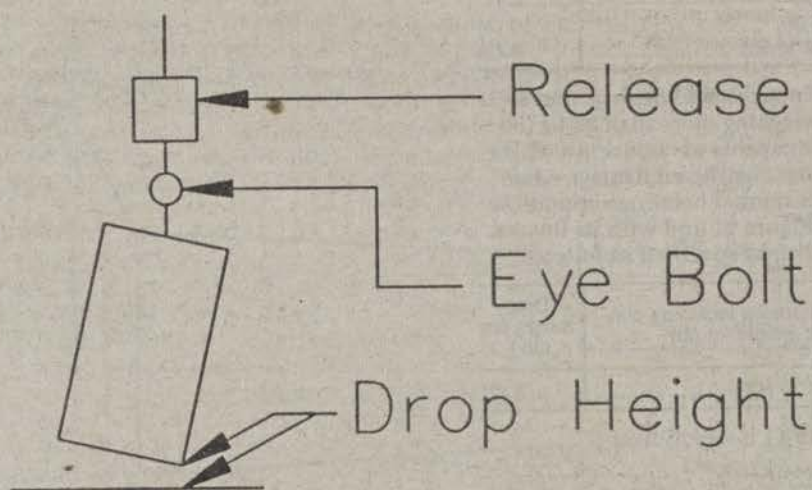
Packaged housing including contents weight kg (lb)	Drop height cm (in.)
23 to 45 (51 to 100)	5 (2)

(2) Figure 11 is as follows:

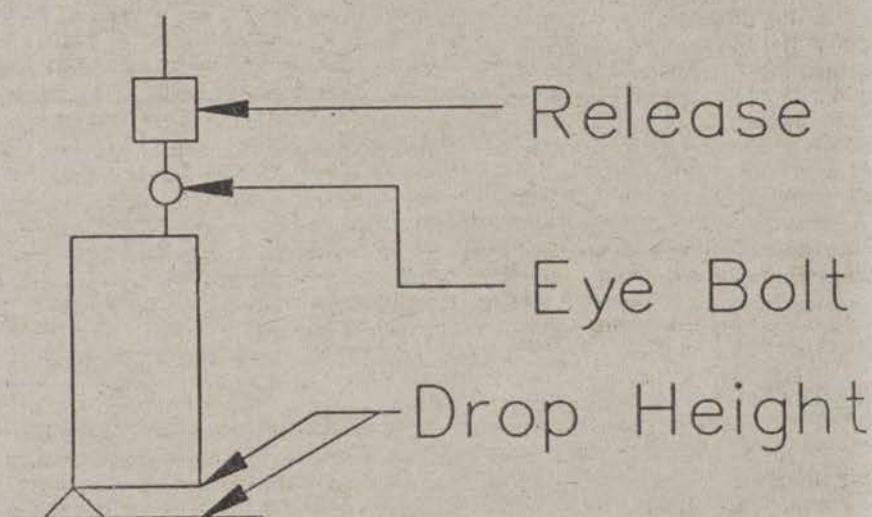
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FIGURE 11

DROP TEST FOR UNPACKAGED HOUSINGS WEIGHING MORE THAN 23 KILOGRAMS (50 POUNDS)



Hoisting Drop Test



Edge and Corner Drop Test

(v) *Firearms resistance.* All housings shall be tested for resistance to penetration by direct impact from a 12 gauge shotgun equipped with a modified choke and the use of a 3¼ dram equivalent powder charge and 35 grams #6 lead shot fired from a distance of 15 m (50 ft). The 12 gauge shotgun shall be fired from a normal standing position at the front side of the housing. Penetration through the housing wall by the lead shot shall constitute failure.

(vi) *Lifting hardware requirements.* The lifting hardware on housings and their contents that weigh more than 91 kg (200 lb) shall be tested. The housing shall be fastened to a restraining device such as a concrete slab and subjected to loading through the lifting attachments to simulate the lifting load. For the first test a lifting line equipped with a dynamometer shall be attached to the housing lifting hardware and a load applied equal to three times the weight of a fully equipped housing.

Deformation or damage to the housing or lifting hardware constitutes failure. A second test shall be conducted with the same arrangements as for the first except that a load shall be applied equal to six times the weight of a fully equipped housing. There shall be no catastrophic failure of the lifting hardware or housing.

(vii) *Stub cable strain relief tests.* Housings equipped with cable stubs and cable shipping retainer shall be tested by lifting a test housing, with the maximum length and weight of cable orderable, in a manner causing the full weight of the cable to be supported by the cabinet. Examination of the cable sheath after lifting shall reveal no tearing, rupturing, or other damage. The cable conductors and shield shall be tested for shorts and opens. Electrical defects to the stub cable or damage to the housing constitutes failure.

(viii) *Door restrainer evaluation.* (A) The housing shall be positioned with the door held in the open position by the door restraining device. A load, determined in accordance with the following table, shall be applied to the center of the door, perpendicular to the door and in each of the opening and closing directions.

Maximum area of door surface cm ² (in. ²)	Load kg (lb)
5,200 (800) or less	72 (160)
5,201 to 9,100 (801 to 1,400)	127 (280)
9,101 to 13,000 (1,401 to 2,000)	181 (400)

Note: Test procedures for housings with larger doors will be evaluated by REA on a case-by-case basis.

(B) There shall be no functional failure of the restraining device nor mechanical damage to the housing.

(ix) *Security evaluation.* The security locking device shall be capable of withstanding a maximum torque of 2.8 N-m (25 lb-in.) without incurring physical damage to the closure, thereby resulting in a condition where the closure cannot be either accessed or locked.

(5) *Electrical requirements for housings.* Each bonding stud and nut location shall be evaluated by attaching one lead from a dc or alternating current (ac) power source to a bonding stud with the nut torqued as specified by its manufacturer and the other power source lead connected to the closure grounding conductor connector. The current path thus established must be capable of sustaining a current of 1,000 amperes root-mean-square for at least 20 seconds without fusing or causing any damage to the closure or its contents.

(6) *Finish requirements—(i) Impact resistance.* The finish on painted metal surfaces shall not exhibit radial cracking on the impact surface (intrusion) when indented at 18 N-m (160 lb-in.) with a 1.6 cm (0.6 in.) diameter spherical indenter. This test shall be performed in accordance with ASTM D 2794-92 with the exception that the test panel shall be of the same material, thickness, and finish as the pedestal housing being evaluated.

(ii) *Finish adhesion.* Painted finishes shall be tested for adhesion of finish in accordance with ASTM D 2197-86 (Reapproved 1991), Method A. There shall be no gouging in the top coat when tested with an 8 kg (17.7 lb) load. Gouging is defined as removal or separation of paint particles or breaking of the finish by the scraping loop to the extent of exposing base metal.

(iii) *Color evaluation.* The color of the housing finish should be compared against the Munsell system of color notation, as described in ASTM D 1535-89 to determine color consistency with that desired.

(iv) *Gloss evaluation.* The finish on painted housings shall be tested on two approximately 20 cm x 20 cm (8 in. x 8 in.) samples for each color used in accordance with the procedures of ASTM D 523-89. The finish shall have a minimum gloss of 60 (60° Specular).

(v) *Secondary finish evaluation.* Evidence of secondary protection shall be required for REA acceptance. Typical secondary protection is galvanizing per ASTM A 526/A 526M-90 for steel surfaces.

(f) *Functional design criteria for binding post terminal blocks used in SAI cabinets—(1) General description.* A

conventional binding post terminal consists of a metallic element or post, one end of which is configured for the permanent connection of 22, 24, or 26 AWG solid copper conductors and the opposite end is configured for recurring connections and disconnections of solid copper cross-connect wire using a threaded screw or stud and nut combination for gripping the wire. The terminal is usually housed in a SAI cabinet. However, the terminal may receive limited use in smaller pedestal-type housings and pole mounted cabinets in the outside plant environment.

(2) *Design and fabrication requirements.* (i) Terminal blocks used in outside plant housings are expected to perform satisfactorily for a nominal design life of 30 years.

(ii) All individual terminals or terminal fields must be enclosed and the terminal enclosure must be totally filled with an encapsulating grease or gel which prevents connection degradation caused by moisture and corrosion. The encapsulant must provide complete encapsulation of terminal metallic connections and surfaces and totally fill all voids and cavities within individual terminal enclosures or terminal field enclosures to prevent ingress of moisture. The encapsulant must not restrict access to the terminal or restrict craft personnel from making connections. The encapsulant must be compatible with the standard materials used in cross-connect hardware and wiring.

(iii) Binding post terminals shall not be susceptible to damage under normal use of standard tools used by outside plant technicians such as screwdrivers and test set clips. In addition, use of other tools such as scissors, diagonal cutters and long nose pliers for tightening and loosening screws shall not result in damage to the terminal.

(iv) Terminals shall be designed so that a typical technician using customary tools shall be able to terminate cross-connect wire on a pair of terminals, or to remove it, without causing an electrical short between any two terminals or any other adjacent terminals.

(v) The terminal count sequence shall be indicated using numerals of at least 0.25 cm (0.10 in.) in height.

(vi) A means shall be provided to distinguish feeder terminals from distribution terminals.

(vii) A means shall be provided to identify tip terminals and ring terminals in a terminal field. The identification convention shall indicate tip on the left with ring on the right for horizontal

spacing and tip on the top with ring on the bottom for vertical spacing.

(viii) The preferred height of the highest terminal in the connector field in a ground mounted SAI unit shall be 168 cm (66 in.) or less as measured from the top surface of the mounting pad. The bottom or lowest terminals in the connector field shall be at least 46 cm (18 in.) from the top surface of the pad.

(ix) Pole mounted aerial units shall be 84 cm (33 in.) or less in width. The maximum allowable height of the highest terminals in a pole mounted aerial unit is 168 cm (66 in.) as measured from the top surface of the standard balcony seat used with the interface. For computation purposes, 15 cm (6 in.) shall be allowed for the distance between the bottom of the interface and the top of the balcony seat.

(3) *Auxiliary features.* (i) SAI cabinets with terminal designs which do not permit direct attachment of common test instrument clips to terminal pairs without the occurrence of shorts shall be equipped with single pair auxiliary test contacts. The auxiliary test contacts shall attach to a terminal pair and provide a set of secondary terminals which will accept typical test instrument clips without the occurrence of shorts. Wire used to connect the auxiliary test contacts to the secondary terminals shall be 20 gauge minimum stranded conductor copper wire with a minimum dielectric strength between conductors of 15 kv. The test connector shall be functional on all terminal pairs.

(ii) A 25 or 50 pair test connector shall be available which can be used to

make reliable electrical contact to terminals associated with discrete 25 pair binder groups. The multi-pair test connector shall be provided with a minimum of 1.8 m (6 ft) of suitable cabling terminated to a connector, for interfacing with test sets common to the industry. The multi-pair test connector shall be functional on all terminal groups.

(iii) A special service marker shall be available which must attach to a binding post terminal to identify special circuits and insulate exposed metal parts from accidental shorts from tools and wires. A supply of 25 special service markers shall be provided with each SAI cabinet. The color of special service markers shall be red.

(iv)(A) A supply of twisted pair cross-connect wire shall be supplied with housings that are equipped with cross-connect terminals or that have provisions for mounting cross-connect terminals. The minimum length of cross-connect wire supplied is dependent on the SAI cabinet terminal capacity as follows:

Cabinet termination capacity (pairs)	Wire length
1 to 600	60 m (200 ft)
601 to 1200	120 m (400 ft)
Over 1200	180 m (600 ft)

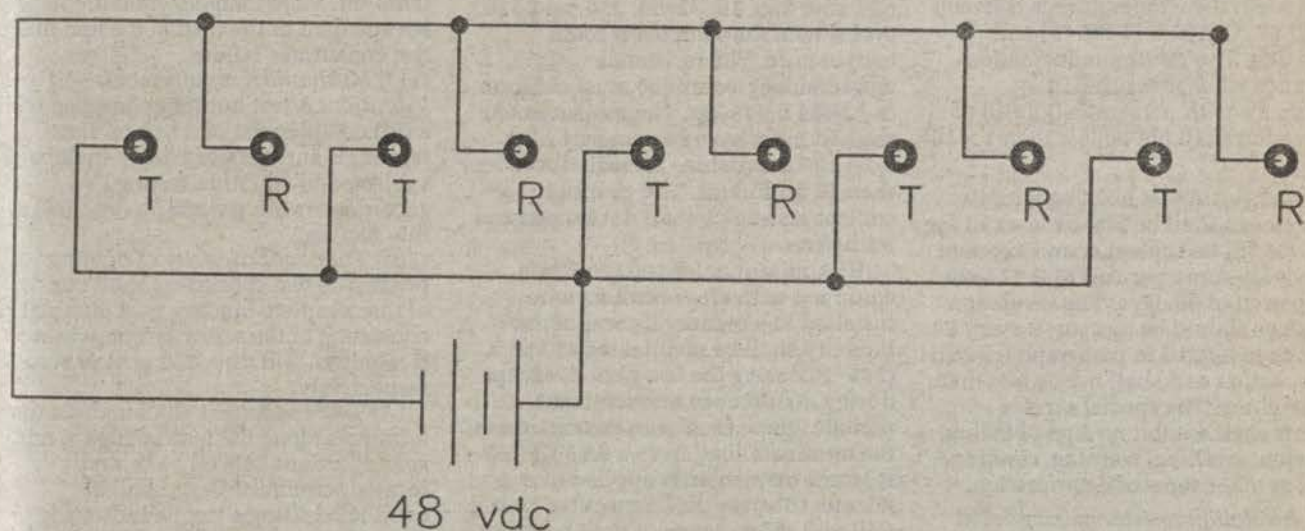
(B) The cabinet shall be equipped to store the length of wire in a manner designed for convenient dispensing. The cross-connect wire supply shall be easily replaceable.

(g) *Performance criteria and test procedures for binding post terminal blocks used in SAI cabinets—(1) General.* Many of the tests described in this section require that the terminal block be installed in an appropriate housing in its typical field configuration.

(2) *Environmental requirements—(i) Insulation resistance/high humidity and salt fog exposure.* A test specimen shall consist of a standard ground or pole mounted housing equipped with a full complement of binding post terminals equipped with 25 special service markers. The minimum number of terminals to be tested shall be 100 pair (100 tips and 100 associated rings). The test terminals shall be selected to form a terminal array of approximate square dimensions. A 1 cm (36 in.) length of cross-connect wire shall be installed on each test terminal. All tips shall be joined together and all rings shall be joined together with a 48 volt dc potential applied as shown in Figure 12 during the high humidity/salt fog and simulated rain exposures. The 48 volt dc may be temporarily removed from the test samples during the measurement process and the ring terminal being measured shall be isolated from the remaining ring terminals. The terminal insulation resistance shall be measured at a potential of 100 volts dc using suitable instrumentation with a minimum measurement range of 10^4 to 10^{12} ohms. Figure 12 is as follows:

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FIGURE 12
BINDING POST ARRANGEMENT FOR
INSULATION RESISTANCE TESTING



Note: 5 pair specimen arrangement shown is typical for entire (100 pair specimen minimum) test population.

(A) *High humidity.* The test housing shall be placed in an environmental test chamber at $95 \pm 3\%$ RH and the temperature cycled as shown in Figure 3 in paragraph (e)(3)(ii) of this section for a period of 30 days. The cabinet doors shall remain in the fully open position. The insulation resistance between the ring terminal of each sample and all the common tip terminals shall be measured each 24 hours when the temperature is between 38 and 57°C (100 and 135°F) and increasing. The minimum insulation resistance when measured in accordance with paragraph (g)(2)(i) of this section shall not be less than 1×10^6 ohms.

(B) *Salt fog.* A test housing with its doors closed shall be placed in a salt fog 35°C (95°F) test chamber and exposed to a salt fog spray per ASTM B 117-90 for a period of 30 days. The insulation resistance should be measured every 24 hours as indicated in paragraph (g)(2)(i) of the section and shall not be less than 1×10^6 ohms. The special service markers shall exhibit no sign of fading, corrosion, swelling, warping, running color, or other signs of deterioration.

(ii) *Insulation resistance/simulated rain exposure.* (A) A test housing as described in paragraph (g)(2)(i) of this section shall be tested for water infiltration. The test shall be conducted using the method described in paragraph (e)(3)(xi) of this section. The cabinet doors shall remain closed for the duration of the test. The insulation resistance between the ring terminals and the common tip terminals shall be measured during and immediately following the spray application as indicated in paragraph (g)(2)(i) of this section and shall not be less than 1×10^6 ohms.

(B) With the cabinet doors open, a spray of tap water at a rate of 3.8 liters per minute (1 gallon per minute) at 276 kilo-pascals (40 pounds per square inch) shall be directed on the terminal array for a period of 1 minute saturating all of the terminals. Following the spray application the doors shall be closed. The cabinet shall be maintained in a temperature environment of 26 to 28°C (78 to 82°F) at $95 \pm 3\%$ RH for 6 hours. The insulation resistance shall then be measured as specified in paragraph (g)(2)(i) of this section. The minimum insulation resistance shall not be less than 1×10^6 ohms.

(iii) *Contact resistance.* A minimum of 100 terminals equipped with cross-connect wire that has been installed in a manner typical of that used in the industry shall be temperature cycled.

(A) The test shall consist of eight-hour temperature cycles with one-hour dwells at extreme temperatures of -40°C to $+60^\circ\text{C}$ (-40°F to $+140^\circ\text{F}$), and temperature changes at an average rate of 16°C (60°F) per hour between the extremes. The relative humidity shall be maintained at $95 \pm 3\%$. The eight-hour test shall be conducted for 512 cycles. Millivolt drop measurements shall be made initially and after 2, 8, 16, 32, 64, 256, and 512 cycles with the samples at room temperature. The resistance measurement technique must conform to ASTM B 539-90. The measurement method must have an accuracy of at least ± 30 milliohms for resistances less than 50 milliohms. The change in contact resistance shall not exceed 2 milliohms.

(B) A minimum of 100 terminals equipped with cross-connect wire installed in a manner typical of the industry shall be maintained at 118°C (245°F) during the test period, except during disturbance measurement periods where each wire connection to the terminals shall have a 0.23 kg (0.5 lb) force momentarily applied in a manner to stress the connection. Initial millivolt measurements shall be made without disturbing the joints in accordance with paragraph (g)(2)(iii)(A) of this section with the samples at room temperature. After initial measurement each sample shall be disturbed followed by a millivolt drop measurement after 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, and 33 days. The change in contact resistance should be less than 2 milliohms when compared to the initial measurement.

(iv) *Fire resistance.* A fully equipped cabinet including a full complement of cross-connect jumpers shall be installed in the standard field arrangement and tested for fire resistance in accordance with paragraphs (e)(3)(xiii) introductory text through (e)(3)(xiii)(B) of this section. After cooling, the cabinet, terminals, and associated wiring shall be inspected for signs of ignition, melting, burning, or structural damage of sufficient consequences such that the results are service affecting.

(v) *Encapsulant material compatibility.* The terminal connection encapsulant compound must be compatible with the standard materials used in cross-connect hardware and wiring when aged in accordance with ASTM D 4568-86 at a temperature of $80 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($176 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$). The conductor insulation shall retain a minimum of 85% of its unaged tensile strength and elongation values. The cross-connect hardware shall exhibit no visible material degradation.

(vi) *Encapsulant flow test.* Terminal connection encapsulant must remain stable at $80 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($176 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$) when tested in an environmental chamber. Test specimens shall be suspended in a preheated oven over a glass dish or other drip-catching medium for a period of 24 hours. At the end of the test period, the glass dish shall be examined for evidence of flowing or dripping of encapsulant from the cross-connect terminal. More than 0.5 gram of encapsulant in the dish at the end of the test constitutes failure.

(3) *Mechanical requirements—(i) Vibration.* A test housing equipped with a full complement of cross-connect terminals and jumper wiring shall be subjected to vibration testing in accordance with paragraph (e)(4)(iii) of this section.

(ii) *Torsional capacity of binding posts.* The test specimens shall consist of the complete binding post terminal consisting of the screw or nut, washers if required, and threaded post or stud respectively.

(A) Test specimens shall include the terminals along the matrix edge at mid-span locations as well as centrally located terminals. Tests shall be conducted using a torque indicating screwdriver, or wrench, with an accuracy of ± 0.17 N-m (± 1.5 lb-in.) or better. The torque indicating device shall be used to tighten a screw or nut until failure of the screw or nut is achieved. Tests shall be conducted while the test specimen is stabilized at temperatures of -40°C , 20°C , and 71°C (-40°F , $+68^\circ\text{F}$, and $+160^\circ\text{F}$). Record the torques at terminal failure. At least 10 test specimens shall be tested at each temperature. The failure torque shall not be less than 2.8 N-m (25.0 lb-in.) for each temperature.

(B) The post or stud of the binding post terminal shall not fail before the screw or nut when increasing torque. The faceplate or receptacle restraining the post or stud shall not fail before the screw or nut when increasing torque.

(iii) *Lateral loading capacity of binding posts.* A minimum of three sets of 25 terminals shall be tested with the test specimens stabilized at temperatures of -40°C , 20°C and 71°C (-40°F , $+68^\circ\text{F}$, and 100°F). The test arrangement shall include the terminals along the matrix edge at mid-span locations as well as centrally located terminals. A force measuring device, such as a dynamometer, shall be attached to the end of a binding post terminal and a 16 kg (35 lb) force applied orthogonally to the terminal axis in 4 perpendicular directions as shown in Figure 13. Permanent deformation in excess of 0.08 cm (0.03

in.) or any structural damage in either the terminal or faceplate constitutes a failure. Figure 13 is as follows:

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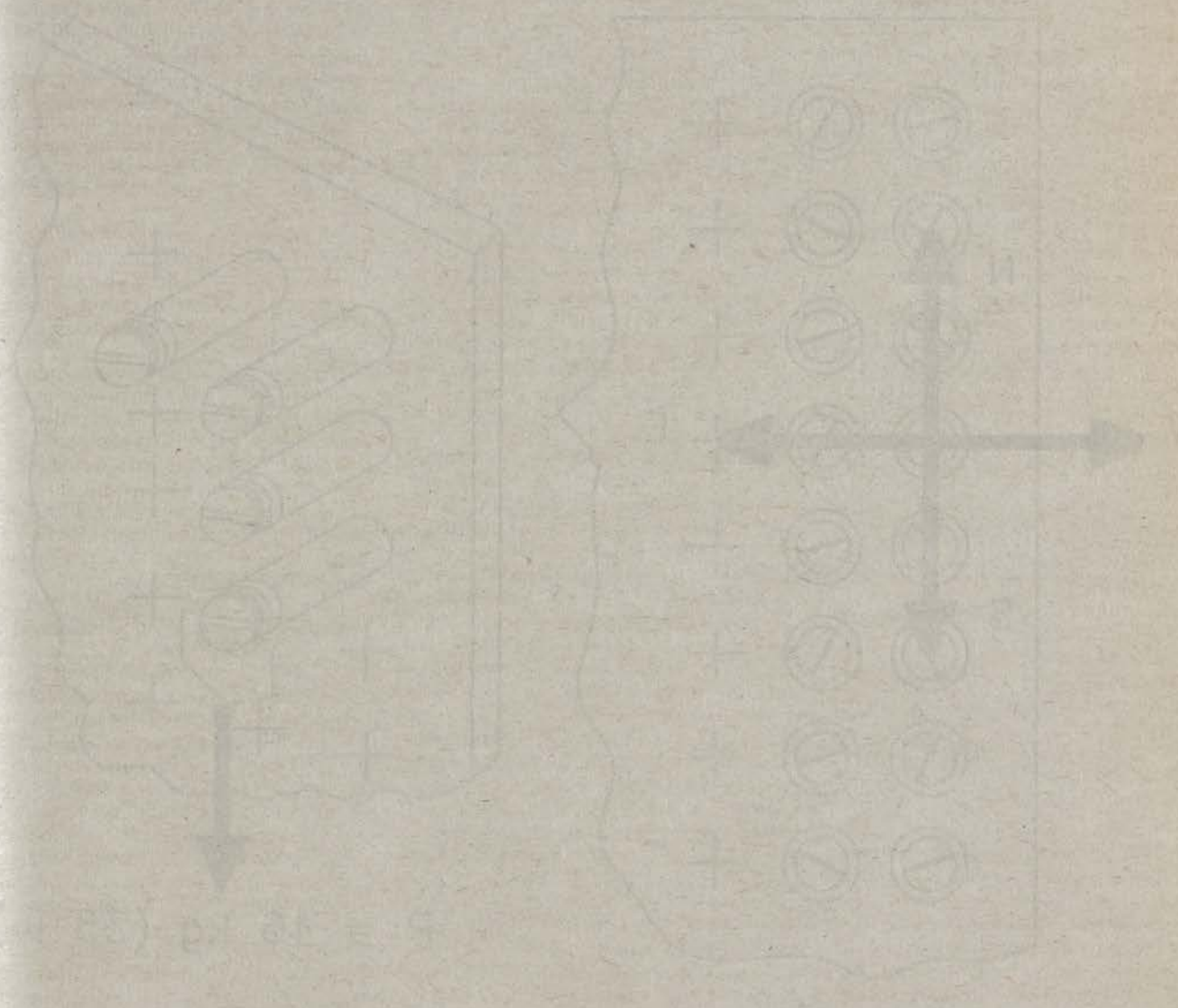
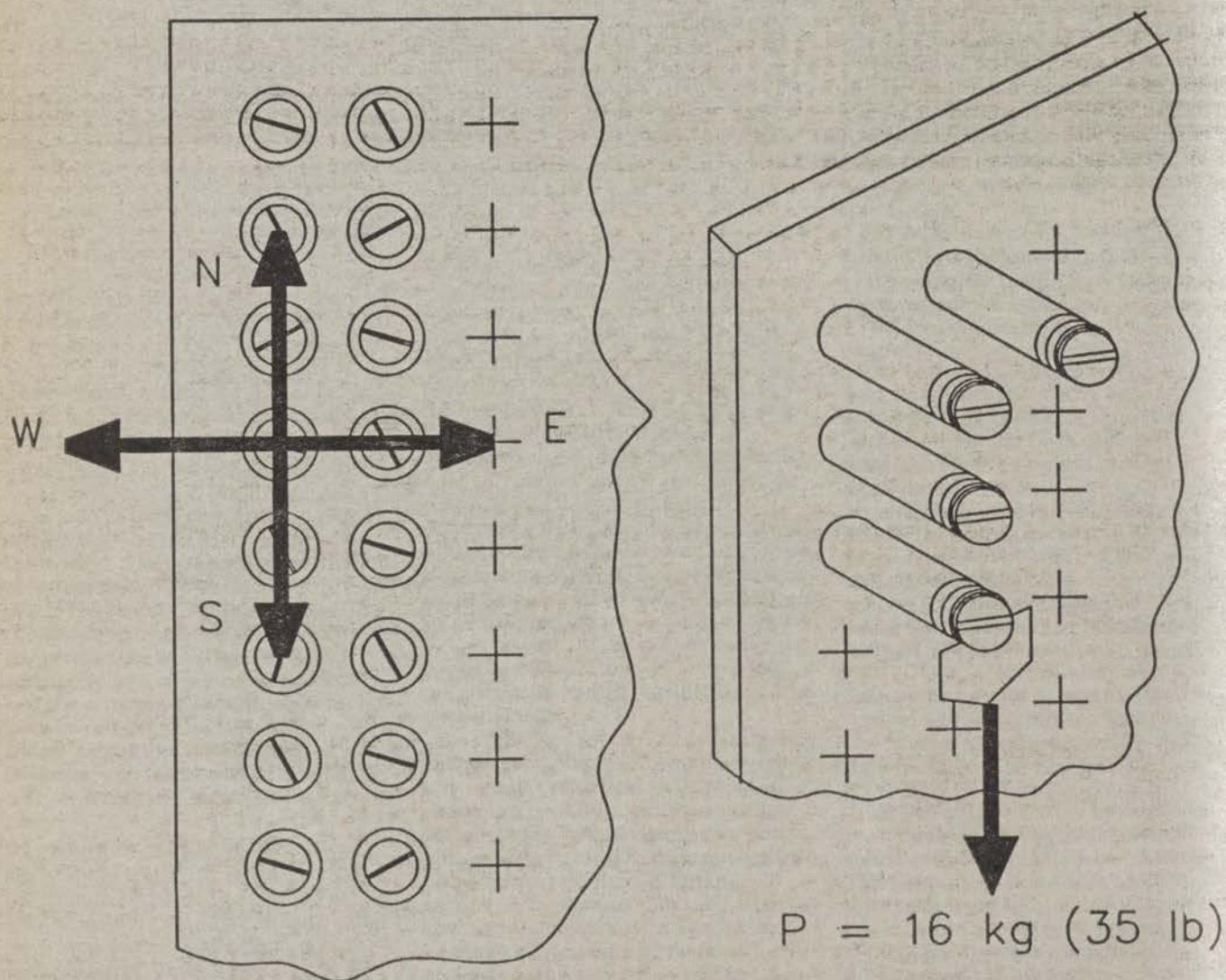


FIGURE 13

LATERAL LOADING OF BINDING POST TERMINALS



Note: Apply load P in N, E, S, and W directions

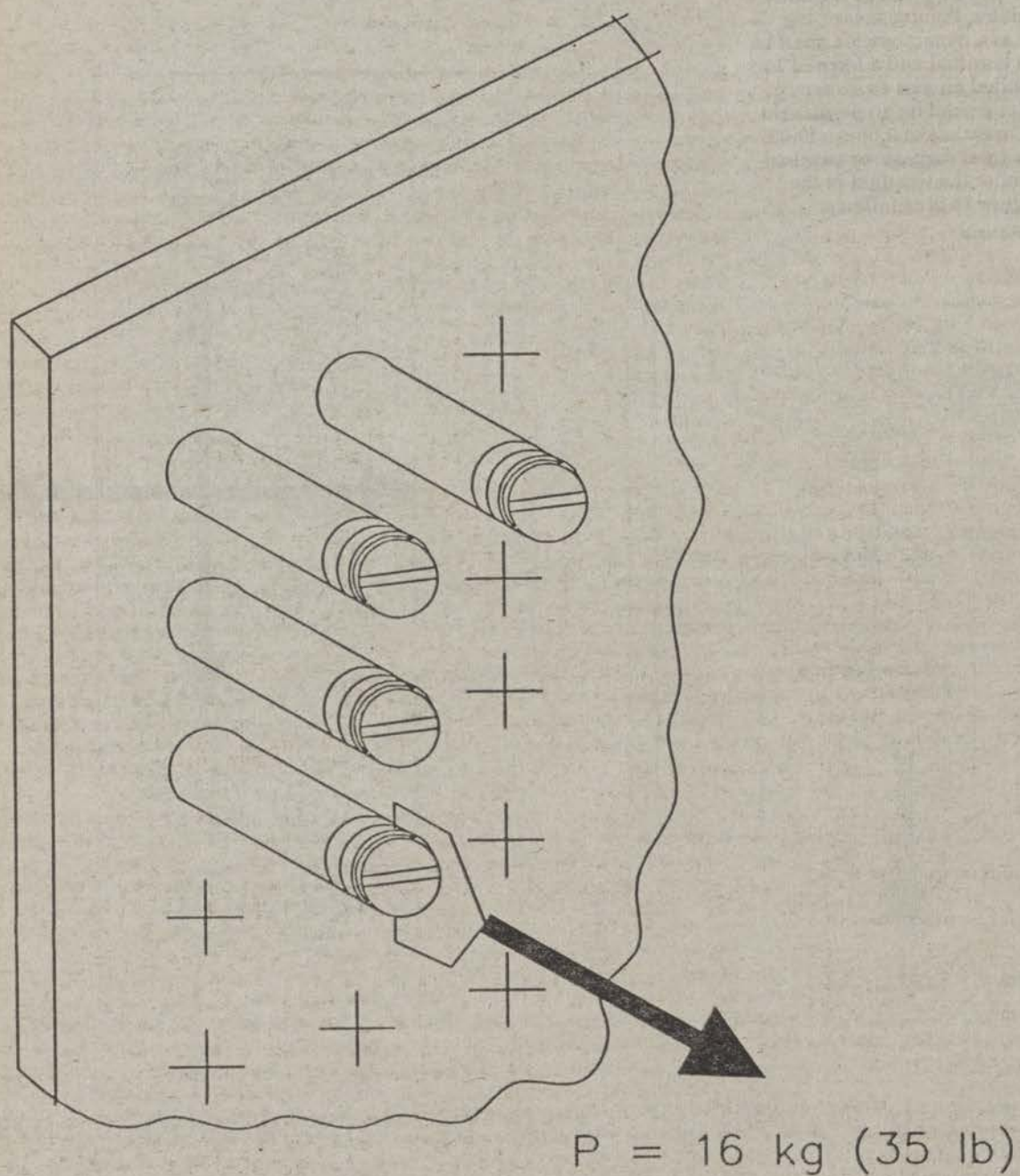
(iv) *Axial pullout resistance.* A minimum of three sets of 25 terminals shall be tested with the test specimens stabilized at temperatures of -40°C , 20°C , and 71°C (-40°F , $+68^{\circ}\text{F}$, and 100°

F). The test arrangement shall include the terminals along the matrix edge at mid-span locations as well as centrally located terminals. A force measuring device, such as a dynamometer, shall be attached to a terminal and a force of 16 kg (35 lb) applied on axis as shown in Figure 14. There shall be no permanent deformation in excess of 0.08 cm (0.03 in.), any structural damage, or terminal pull-out in either the terminal or the faceplate. Figure 14 is as follows:

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FIGURE 14

AXIAL PULLOUT OF BINDING POST TERMINALS



(v) *Test connector reliability.* (A) A single pair connector shall be capable of making a minimum of 100 successive connections to binding post terminals without the occurrence of an open circuit. The test shall include terminals along the matrix edge, center, top, and bottom.

(B) A multi-pair test connector shall be attached to the binding post terminal field and tests for opens between the binding post terminals and the test connector shall be conducted. All circuits must prove good. The test shall be repeated along the terminal matrix edges, center, top, and bottom.

(vi) *Service cycle reliability.* A torque indicating device or wrench with an accuracy of ± 0.17 N-m (± 1.5 lb-in.) or better shall be used to tighten the terminal screw or nut as appropriate to 1.7 N-m (15.0 lb-in.). The terminal nut or screw is then loosened and retightened to 1.7 N-m (15 lb-in.). After 50 repeated connections and disconnections, the terminal shall be placed in an environmental chamber at 95% RH where the temperature shall be cycled as indicated in Figure 3 in paragraph (e)(3)(ii) of this section for a duration of 72 hours. The terminal shall then be momentarily removed from the chamber and the test procedure repeated. After a total of 250 loosening and retightening cycles have accumulated, the terminal must be capable of withstanding a torque of 1.7 N-m (15 lb-in.).

(4) *Dielectric strength.* All housing components in the vicinity of unsheathed field cable conductors, unsheathed housing stub cable or harness conductors, terminals, or cross-connect wire paths shall have a minimum dielectric strength of 500 volts ac to the cabinet grounding and bonding bracket. Dielectric strength is tested by connecting one lead from a 500-volt ac at 0.5 ampere source to the cabinet ground connector and the other lead is passed along the surfaces of all cabinet components in the vicinity of unsheathed cable or harness conductors, cross-connect wire paths, and in the splice area where unsheathed field cable conductors may be located. Sparkover constitutes failure.

(5) *Operational requirements—(i) Durability.* In order to verify the durability requirements while minimizing the number of test housings required to complete the test program, the binding posts selected for tests shall be separately identified and then checked to establish compliance after the various tests have been conducted.

(ii) Twenty-five jumper connections shall be made on each of two binding post connectors chosen at random from

a representative sample in an assembled interface unit. After exposure to this test, these and adjacent connectors shall be inspected for damage such as cracks or chips in metal or plastic parts. Failure consists of structural damage, open circuits through the connector, or inability to pass the torsional, lateral loading, or axial pullout tests described in paragraphs (g)(3)(ii) through (g)(3)(iv) of this section.

(iii) Select six binding posts at random in a representative interface. On each connector, attach any test cord included with the unit and then remove the test cord as follows. On binding post sample 1, remove the cord normally ten times. On binding post sample 2, remove the cord ten times by jerking the test leads straight out. In these and the remaining tests, do this without releasing any manual attachment mechanisms. On sample 3, remove ten times by jerking downward at 45° from horizontal; sample 4, upward at 45° ten times; sample 5, left 45° ten times; sample 6, right 45° ten times. Check for opens and damage in the test cord, clips, and connectors. Failure consists of structural damage, open circuits through the connector, or inability of the terminal blocks to pass the torsional, lateral loading, axial pullout, test connector reliability, or dielectric strength tests described in paragraphs (g)(3)(ii) through (g)(3)(v)(B), and paragraph (g)(4) of this section.

(iv) Use craft tools such as scissors, diagonal cutters, and long nose pliers to loosen and tighten screws where the binding post design does not prohibit the possibility. Failure consists of severe structural damage.

(h) *Functional design criteria for insulation displacement type cross-connect modules used in SAI cabinets—*

(1) *General description.* Cross-connect modules normally consist of multiple metallic contact elements that are retained by nonmetallic fixtures. The contact elements are spliced with permanent wire leads compatible for splicing to 22, 24, or 26 gauge cable on one side and configured for the acceptance of recurring connections and disconnections of plastic insulated cross-connect wire on the other side. Cross-connect modules are usually housed in a SAI cabinet. However, modules may receive limited usage in smaller pedestal-type housings and cabinets in the outside plant environment.

(2) *Design and fabrication requirements.* (i) All individual terminals or terminal fields must be enclosed and the terminal enclosures must be totally filled with an encapsulating grease or gel which

prevents connection degradation caused by moisture and corrosion. The encapsulant must provide complete encapsulation of terminal metallic connections and surfaces and totally fill all voids and cavities within individual terminal enclosures or terminal field enclosures to prevent ingress of moisture. The encapsulant must not restrict access to the terminal or restrict craft personnel from making connections. The encapsulant must be compatible with the standard materials used in cross-connect hardware and wiring.

(ii) The cross-connect module manufacturer shall make available any nonstandard tools and test apparatus which are required for splicing, placing of jumpers, and the performance of maintenance operations.

(iii) The module shall be designed so that a typical outside plant technician using tools shall be able to terminate cross-connect wire on terminals, or to remove them without causing electrical shorts between any other terminals.

(iv) The pair count sequence terminated on a module shall be easily visible and shall have numerals of at least 0.25 cm (0.10 in.) in height.

(v) Feeder terminations shall be easily distinguished from distribution terminations.

(vi) Tip and ring terminations shall be easily visible and shall be identifiable as described in paragraph (f)(2)(vi) of this section.

(vii) The preferred locations for cross-connect modules to be mounted inside a housing is the same as those for terminals and are described in paragraphs (f)(2)(vii) and (f)(2)(viii) of this section.

(3) *Auxiliary features.* (i) Housings equipped with cross-connect modules shall be equipped with auxiliary test contacts as described in paragraphs (f)(3)(i) and (f)(3)(ii) of this section.

(ii) Special service markers shall be available for cross-connect modules as described in paragraph (f)(3)(iii) of this section.

(iii) Housings equipped with, or designed for, cross-connect modules shall contain a supply of cross-connect wire as described in paragraph (f)(3)(iv) of this section.

(i) *Performance criteria and test procedures for insulation displacement type cross-connect modules—(1) General.* Many of the tests described in this section require that the cross-connect module be installed in an appropriate housing in its typical field configuration for testing. Resistance measurements should be made with an electrical device which measures changes in resistance for each test

parameter measured. The tests specified provide an indication of the stability of the electrical connections under the test conditions encountered.

(2) *Environmental requirements.* (i) A fully equipped arrangement of cross-connect modules having approximately 25 special service markers shall successfully complete environmental testing in accordance with paragraphs (e)(3) introductory text through (e)(3)(xiii)(B) of this section.

(ii) *Insulation resistance/high humidity and salt fog exposure.* Insulation resistance measurements shall not be less than 1×10^6 ohms when cross-connect modules are tested by a procedure similar to that described in paragraphs (g)(2)(i) introductory text through (g)(2)(i)(B) of this section.

(iii) *Insulation resistance/simulated rain exposure.* Insulation resistance measurements shall not be less than 1×10^6 ohms when cross-connect modules are tested by a procedure similar to that described in and paragraphs (g)(2)(ii) introductory text through (g)(2)(ii)(B) of this section.

(iv) *Contact resistance.* The change in contact resistance should not exceed 2 milliohms when cross-connect modules are tested by a procedure similar to that described in paragraphs (g)(2)(iii) introductory text through (g)(2)(iii)(B) of this section.

(v) *Fire resistance.* A housing fully equipped with cross-connect modules and jumper wiring shall be tested for fire resistance by a procedure similar to that described in paragraph (g)(2)(iv) of this section.

(vi) *Encapsulant material compatibility.* Cross-connect wire insulation and cross-connect hardware shall exhibit no visible material degradation when tested by the procedure described in paragraph (g)(2)(v) of this section.

(vii) *Encapsulant flow test.* The cross-connect contact encapsulant shall drip no more than 0.5 gram when tested by the procedure described in paragraph (g)(2)(vi) of this section.

(3) *Mechanical requirements—(i) Vibration.* A housing fully equipped with cross-connect modules shall be vibration tested in accordance with paragraph (g)(3)(i) of this section.

(ii) *Test connector reliability.* The test connectors supplied with housings intended for cross-connect modules shall successfully complete 100 successive connections as described in paragraphs (g)(3)(v) introductory text through (g)(3)(v)(B) of this section.

(iii) *Service cycle reliability.* A combination of multiple insertions of jumper wires, vibration, and temperature cycling shall be performed

on cross-connect modules. The multiple insertions on approximately 100 connections shall be accomplished by 300 operations consisting of insertion, removal and reinsertion of new jumper wire. Contact resistance shall be measured and the final insertion of jumper wire shall not be removed from the connectors but must be subjected to vibration testing in accordance with paragraph (g)(3)(i) of this section and temperature cycled as indicated in Figure 3 in paragraph (e)(3)(ii) of this section for a duration of 72 hours. After vibration and temperature cycling, the average change in contact resistance shall be no greater than 2 milliohms.

(iv) *Jumper wire pull-out resistance.* Test modules that have received no prior conditioning shall be equipped with 100 38 cm (15 in.) jumper connections of the gauges recommended for use with the module using the insertion tool recommended by the cross-connect module manufacturer. With the test samples suitably supported, wires from each sample shall be pulled, one at a time, by a tensile machine at a cross-head speed of 6 centimeters per minute (cm/min) (2.4 inches per minute (in./min)). Wires shall be pulled both perpendicular and parallel to the plane of the cross-connect field and shall withstand a load of at least 1.1 kg (2.5 lb) before pulling out.

(v) *Cable conductor pull-out resistance.* Test modules that have received no prior conditioning shall be equipped with 100 26, 24, and 22 AWG 38 cm (15 in.) cable conductors using the insertion tool recommended by the cross-connect module manufacturer. With the test samples suitably supported, conductors from each sample shall be pulled, one at a time, by a tensile machine at a cross-head speed of 6 cm/min (2.4 in./min). Wires shall be pulled both perpendicular and parallel to the plane of the face of the splice module and shall withstand a load of at least 1.1 kg (2.5 lb) before pulling out.

(4) *Electrical requirements—(i) Dielectric strength.* A housing fully equipped with cross-connect modules shall be tested for dielectric strength in accordance with (g)(4) of this section.

(ii) The dielectric strength of a contact within the cross-connect module to contacts on either side shall be tested. The module shall be tested in a dry environment with an ac power source capable of supplying 8 kv at a rate of increase of 500 volts per second, a circuit breaker to open at breakdown, and a voltmeter to record the breakdown potential. Cross-connect modules shall be prepared in accordance with industry accepted splicing techniques with leads

trimmed to approximately 38 cm (15 in.). The dielectric strength of each contact to the contacts on either side shall have an average dielectric strength of approximately 5.0 kv.

(5) *Operational requirements—(i) Durability.* In order to verify the durability requirements while minimizing the number of test housings required to complete the test program, the contacts selected for tests shall be separately identified and then checked to establish compliance after the various tests have been conducted.

(ii) Twenty-five jumper connections shall be made on each of two contacts chosen at random from a representative sample in an assembled interface unit. After this test, these and surrounding contacts shall be inspected for damage such as cracks or chips in metal or plastic parts. Failure consists of structural damage, open circuits through the connector, or inability to pass the jumper wire pullout tests described in paragraph (i)(3)(iv) of this section.

(iii) Select six contacts at random in a representative interface. On each of these contacts attach any test cord included with the unit as specified under normal use of that cord and then remove the test cord as follows. On sample 1, remove the cord normally ten times. On sample 2, remove the clip ten times by jerking the test leads straight out. In these and the remaining tests, do this without releasing any manual attachment mechanisms. On sample 3, remove ten times by jerking downward at 45° from horizontal; sample 4, upward 45° ten times; sample 5, left 45° ten times; sample 6, right 45° ten times. Check for opens and damage in the test cord, clips, and cross-connect modules. Failure consists of structural damage, open circuits through the connector, or inability of module to pass the test connector reliability, jumper wire pullout, and dielectric strength tests described in paragraphs (i)(3)(ii), (i)(3)(iv), and (i)(4)(ii) of this section.

(j) *Packaging and identification requirements—(1) Product identification.* (i) Each housing, terminal block, or cross-connect module shall be permanently marked with the manufacturer's name or trade mark. (ii) The date of manufacture, model number, serial number and REA assigned designations shall be placed on a decal inside housings. The product identification nomenclature must correspond with the nomenclature used in the manufacturer's quality assurance program.

(2) *Packaging requirements.* (i) Buried plant housings shall be packaged securely in an environmentally safe container to prevent either deterioration

or physical damage to the unit during shipment, handling and storage.

(ii) The product with all the necessary parts shall be shipped in one container unless significant advantages to the user can be obtained otherwise. Packaging of parts in the carton shall be such that the parts become available in the order in which they are needed. The package should be clearly marked as to which end to open. Packages shall be clearly labeled, and correspond to the names given in the instructions.

(iii) Products packed in shipping containers shall be cushioned, blocked, braced, and anchored to prevent movement and damage.

(iv) All products shall be secured to pallets with non-metallic strapping. The strapping and the manner employed shall be of sufficient quantity, width, and thickness to preclude failure during transit and handling.

(v) The use of shrink or stretch film to secure the load to the pallet is permitted. However, such film must be applied over the required strapping.

(vi) Containers that are too large or heavy to be palletized, such as crates, shall be shipped in their own containers. When practical, these containers shall be provided with skids to facilitate fork-lift handling.

(vii) When packaged, the outer cartons shall meet the requirements of the Uniform Freight Classification and the National Motor Freight Classification.

(3) Container marking requirements.

(i) The package shall be readily identifiable as to the manufacturer, model number, date of manufacture, and serial number.

(ii) The REA assigned housing designation shall be stamped or marked on the outside of the package container with letter and number sizes large enough for easy identification.

(iii) Each package shall be marked with its approximate gross weight.

(iv) All containers carrying delicate or fragile items shall be marked to clearly identify this condition.

(v) All marking shall be clear, legible, and as large as space permits.

(The information and recordkeeping requirements of this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0572-0059.)

Dated: October 12, 1994.

Bob J. Nash,

Under Secretary, Small Community and Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 94-25758 Filed 10-20-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

Farmers Home Administration

7 CFR Part 1951

RIN 0575-AB85

Disaster Set-Aside Program

AGENCY: Farmers Home Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Interim final rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) amends its Farmer Programs servicing regulations by adding the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program. This program will be made available to Farmer Program borrowers who operated a farm or ranch in a county where a disaster occurred in 1993 and was declared/designated a disaster area in accordance with FmHA regulations. Under this program, the distressed borrower will have the opportunity to move the next scheduled FmHA annual installment to the end of the loan term. The intended effect is to service disaster victims in an efficient and timely manner while keeping them in business.

DATES: Interim final rule effective October 21, 1994. Written comments must be submitted on or before November 21, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments, in duplicate, to the Office of the Chief, Regulations Analysis and Control Branch, FmHA, USDA, Room 6348-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. All written comments will be available for public inspection during regular working hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly R. Laris, Loan Officer, Farmer Programs Loan Servicing Division, Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, Telephone (202) 720-4572.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Classification

This rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866 and therefore has not been reviewed by OMB.

Intergovernmental Consultation

For the reasons set forth in the final rule related to Notice 7 CFR, part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29115, June 24, 1983), and FmHA Instruction 1940-J, "Intergovernmental Review of FmHA Programs and Activities" (December 23, 1983), Emergency Loans, Farm Ownership Loans, and Farm Operating

Loans are excluded, with the exception of nonfarm enterprise activity, from the scope of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. The Soil and Water Loan Program, however, is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372.

Programs Affected

These changes affect the following FmHA programs, as listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:

- 10.404—Emergency Loans
- 10.406—Farm Operating Loans
- 10.407—Farm Ownership Loans
- 10.410—Low Income Housing Loans
- 10.416—Soil and Water Loans

Environmental Impact Statement

This document has been reviewed in accordance with 7 CFR, part 1940, subpart G, "Environmental Program." FmHA has determined that this action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Civil Justice Reform

This document has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 12778. It is the determination of FmHA that this action does not unduly burden the Federal Court System in that it meets all applicable standards provided in section 2 of the E.O.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements contained in these regulations have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB control number [0575-0163] in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3507). The interim final rule does not revise or impose any new information collection or recordkeeping requirements from those approved by OMB.

Discussion of Interim Final Rule

FmHA has chosen to publish this regulation as an interim final rule without first publishing a proposed rule due to the nature of the program and the eligibility requirements involved. Eighty percent of the 3,151 counties serviced by FmHA were declared disaster areas in 1993. Due to heavy flooding in the midwest and extreme droughts in the South, considerably more borrowers were affected by disasters in 1993 than in any of the previous five years. This

program will also help those borrowers who are affected by the 1994 flood disaster in the South if they were also affected by the previous disasters in 1993. FmHA is considering extending this program in the future to assist borrowers affected only by the 1994 disaster. In order to prevent massive delinquencies and farm failures, borrowers in a crisis situation must receive immediate financial assistance.

It is for this purpose and by the authority granted the Secretary under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT), section 331A (7 U.S.C. 1981a), FmHA has made available the Disaster Set-Aside Program. As provided in section 331A, the Secretary has the authority to defer principal and interest at the request of the borrower on any outstanding loan made, insured, or held by the Secretary under the CONACT, subject to the borrower showing that due to circumstances beyond his/her control, he/she is temporarily unable to continue making payments when due without unduly impairing his/her standard of living. The set-aside program is designed to assist borrowers in financial distress who operated a farm or ranch in a county where a disaster occurred in 1993 and was declared/designated a disaster area as set forth in subpart A of part 1945 of this chapter.

Under this program, farmer programs borrowers can receive immediate financial relief from their FmHA payment obligations in a more expedient manner than under subpart S of part 1951. For example, the application process is simple and easy, unlike the primary loan servicing application under subpart S of part 1951 which requires extensive documentation by both the borrower and the servicing official. There are no additional security requirements to deter the borrower from requesting debt set-aside. On the average, the borrower's installments can be set-aside the same day he/she makes the request, whereas under subpart S of part 1951, it takes an average of 90 days to process an application and restructure a loan.

To comply with the statute, the borrower must be temporarily unable to make the payment being set-aside because of circumstances beyond his/her control. This is demonstrated by requiring that the borrower must have operated a farm or ranch during 1993 in which a disaster occurred and the county was declared/designated a disaster area, or a contiguous county, as set forth in subpart A of part 1945 of this chapter; that the borrower be current or not more than 1 installment behind on any and all farmer program

loans, which would assure that all payments prior to the disaster were paid or the loan restructured; that if no other payments have been due on the loan, the projected farm plan for the disaster year shows that the payment could have been paid under normal conditions; and that the borrower's actual records for the disaster year must show that, because of the disaster, the borrower's projected income was reduced to an amount that would prevent payment of all family living and operating expenses and paying amounts due FmHA and/or other creditors.

FmHA projects that approximately 60,000 borrowers affected by 1993 disasters will request assistance under the set-aside program. Of these borrowers, the majority have installments that came due January 1, 1994. If these installments are not paid by January 1, 1995, or otherwise set-aside, the borrower will be two installments behind and will no longer be eligible to receive disaster set-aside assistance. Borrowers more than one payment behind will be able to receive more assistance through FmHA's loan servicing program under subpart S of part 1951 of this chapter than through the debt set-aside program. However, borrowers who cannot obtain servicing through subpart S of part 1951 of this chapter may be able to cure their delinquency with set-aside assistance alone. The set-aside program will be better for some borrowers than servicing through subpart S of part 1951 of this chapter since the set-aside will be a faster process, eligibility requirements are easier to meet, paperwork is less, and some borrowers' financial distress can be resolved with only one payment deferred. The program will allow some borrowers to use sources other than FmHA to maintain their farm operation and allow them to work out their financial difficulty over the next year or so. Other borrowers may prefer to use the year to voluntarily liquidate. This regulation will, therefore, provide options to prevent the foreclosure of borrowers in both of these instances. However, borrowers who are not eligible for the DSA program, or who need more extensive servicing, will still have the opportunity to be considered for FmHA's primary loan servicing program as set forth in subpart S of part 1951 of this chapter.

The set-aside program allows eligible borrowers to move one FmHA annual installment for each loan to the end of the loan term, thereby quickly eliminating the immediate financial stress. The installment set-aside may be the one due immediately after the disaster or, if that installment is paid to

the neglect of other creditors or family living and operating expenses, then the next scheduled installment may be set-aside. Borrowers who received primary loan servicing after the disaster will not be eligible for the disaster set-aside, as restructuring of the account already resolved the financial distress for the current and next production/marketing period. Borrowers whose farmer program loans have been accelerated will also not be eligible for disaster set-aside as their financial situation is much more severe than the borrower who is only one installment behind. These type of borrowers have already been processed through 1951-S primary and preacquisition preservation loan servicing resulting in no servicing granted. The disaster set-aside program cannot offer more favorable options than those provided in subpart S of part 1951.

Based on past experience, the Agency has found that a borrower needs a minimum of one to two years to recover from a disaster. Therefore, in order for an installment to be set-aside, the term remaining on the loan must equal or exceed two years from the date on which the installment set-aside was due. This requirement automatically eliminates all one-year loans and any loans that will mature in less than two years. Borrowers with less than two years remaining on the loan will receive greater benefit from the servicing options available under subpart S of part 1951 of this chapter as restructuring could possibly provide longer repayment terms for the entire debt.

The set-aside amount will include unpaid interest and any principal that would be credited to the borrower's account as if the payment were paid on the due date. This amount will not exceed the annual scheduled installment being set-aside minus any portion of the installment paid prior to the set-aside addendum being signed. The unpaid interest is set-aside in order that the remaining amortized installments can be credited properly to principal and interest. Interest will continue to accrue on any principal amount set-aside at the same rate charged on the non-set-aside portion of the note. The amount set-aside, including interest accrual on any principal set-aside, will be due on or before the final due date of the loan. The interest amount set-aside will not accrue interest, as permitted by section 331A of the CONACT.

Borrowers who apply for both set-aside and 1951-S servicing, must choose which program they wish to accept. Borrowers cannot choose both because the options are overlapping

servicing tools geared toward borrower financial stability. The program not chosen will automatically be withdrawn once the borrower either signs the set-aside addendum or the promissory note(s) restructured under 1951-S, whichever is applicable. This assures the borrower's eligibility for the program chosen prior to the other request being withdrawn. If the set-aside program is chosen and any 1951-S request is withdrawn, the borrower will not lose any future servicing rights under subpart S of part 1951 of this chapter. The borrower may re-apply for 1951-S servicing at any time after the set-aside addendum is signed. However, if a borrower is offered servicing under subpart S of part 1951 of this chapter while waiting for notice of eligibility for the set-aside and the time limits for 1951-S servicing expire without timely response by the borrower, the borrower will lose the rights to 1951-S servicing.

The Agency anticipates that circumstances may arise beyond the borrower's control that could warrant restructuring the debt prior to the next scheduled installment coming due. In these cases, since the set-aside brings the account current, the borrower may be considered for a writedown or net recovery buyout as set forth in subpart S of part 1951 and/or granted assistance in accordance with § 1941.14 of subpart A of part 1941 of this chapter only if the set-aside is reversed and the addendum cancelled. If the set-aside is reversed, the account will reflect the current payment status as if the payment had never been set-aside.

In the case of entity borrowers, all members of the entity liable for the debt must apply for set-aside in order for FmHA to consider the application. This procedure is consistent with that under subpart S of part 1951.

The set-aside program will be available only until July 1, 1995. This timeframe will provide those borrowers who have already made their payment that was due after the disaster ample time to determine if the loss they incurred from the disaster will affect their repayment ability for the following year.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1951

Account servicing, Credit, Loan programs—Agriculture, Loan programs—Housing and community development, Low and moderate income housing loans—Servicing, Debt restructuring.

Accordingly, part 1951, Chapter XVIII, title 7, Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 1951—SERVICING AND COLLECTIONS

1. The authority citation for part 1951 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1480; 5 U.S.C. 301, 7 CFR 2.23 and 2.70.

2. Subpart T of part 1951, consisting of §§ 1951.951 through 1951.1000, is added to read as follows:

Subpart T—Disaster Set-Aside Program

- 1951.951 Purpose.
- 1951.952 General.
- 1951.953 Notification and request for DSA.
- 1951.954–1951.956 [Reserved]
- 1951.957 Eligibility determination and processing.
- 1951.958 Supervision and servicing of borrowers with DSA.
- 1951.959 Exception authority.
- 1951.960–1951.999 [Reserved]
- 1951.1000 OMB control number.

Subpart T—Disaster Set-Aside Program

§ 1951.951 Purpose.

This subpart sets forth the policies and procedures for establishing and implementing the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program. The DSA program is available to Farmer Programs (FP) borrowers, as defined in subpart S of this part, who suffered losses as a result of a 1993 disaster. FP loans that may be serviced under this subpart include Farm Ownership (FO), Operating (OL), Soil and Water (SW), Emergency (EM), Economic Emergency (EE), Special Livestock (SL), Economic Opportunity (EO), Softwood Timber (ST), Recreation (RL), and Rural Housing loans for farm service buildings (RHF). Nonprogram (NP) farm type loans may be serviced under this subpart for borrowers who also have FP loans. FP borrowers have until July 1, 1995, to request disaster set-aside and submit a complete application. Partial applications will not be acceptable. Requests received after July 1, 1995, will not be accepted.

§ 1951.952 General.

DSA is a program whereby borrowers who are current or not more than one installment behind on any and all FP loans may be permitted to move one Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) scheduled annual installment(s) for each eligible FP loan to the end of the loan term. The intent of this program is to relieve some of the borrower's immediate financial stress caused by the disaster and avoid foreclosure by the Government.

§ 1951.953 Notification and request for DSA.

(a) *Notification.* The County Supervisor will use Form Letter 1951-T-1 to notify FP borrowers of the availability of the DSA program and how to apply. All FP borrowers, as defined in § 1951.906 of subpart S of this part, who have not been accelerated and who operated a farm or ranch in a county during 1993 in which a disaster occurred and was declared/designated as a disaster area or contiguous county, as set forth in subpart A of part 1945 of this chapter, will be notified within 10 days of the effective date of this subpart. However, those borrowers whose FP loan(s) has been accelerated, or restructured after a 1993 disaster, will not be notified under this paragraph. Notification of the DSA program will not affect the notification requirements set forth in subpart S of this part.

(b) *Request for DSA.* All FP borrower liable for the debt must provide the County Office with the information described in paragraphs (b) (1) and (2) of this section on or before July 1, 1995 to request DSA. Borrowers may only be considered for DSA one time.

(1) A written request for DSA signed by all parties liable for the debt, and

(2) Actual production, income, and expense figures for the production/marketing period in which the 1993 disaster occurred, unless this information is already in the borrower case file.

(c) *Eligibility requirements.* The County Supervisor will determine whether the borrower meets the following eligibility requirements:

(1) The borrower's FP loan(s) has not been accelerated.

(2) The borrower operated a farm or ranch in a county declared/designated a disaster area as set forth in subpart A of part 1945 of this chapter or a county contiguous to such an area based on a 1993 disaster. The borrower must have been operating the farm or ranch at the time of the disaster.

(3) The borrower has acted in good faith as defined in § 1951.906 of subpart S of this part.

(4) All nonmonetary defaults have been resolved. This means that even though the borrower has acted in good faith, he/she may still be in default for reasons, such as, but not limited to: no longer farming, prior lienholder foreclosure, bankruptcy, not properly maintaining chattel and real estate security, not properly accounting for the sale of security as agreed, or not

carrying out any other agreements made with FmHA.

(5) The borrower is current or not more than one installment behind on any and all FP loans at the time the scheduled installment(s) will be set-aside as reflected on the Finance Office 540 or 582 status reports.

(6) The borrower's projected income for the disaster year was reduced as a result of the disaster, causing insufficient income available to pay all family living and operating expenses, debts to other creditors, and FmHA. This determination will be based on the borrower's actual production and income and expense records for the disaster year.

(7) The term remaining on the loan(s) receiving DSA equals or exceeds 2 years from the due date of the installment being set-aside.

(8) All FP and NP farm type loans will be current after the scheduled installments are set-aside.

(9) The borrower's FP loan(s) was not restructured under subpart S of this part after the 1993 disaster.

§§ 1951.954–1951.956 [Reserved]

§ 1951.957 Eligibility determination and processing.

(a) *Eligibility determination.* Upon receipt of a DSA request, the County Supervisor will determine whether the borrower meets the eligibility requirements set forth in § 1951.953(c) of this subpart and notify the borrower of the results within 30 days from the date of the DSA request. The file shall contain documentation to reflect the date of request and the date the borrower was notified and the addendum signed.

(1) The borrower shall be provided up to 30 days to sign Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office). If Exhibit A is not signed within 30 days and prior to the borrower becoming more than one installment behind, the DSA request will be withdrawn and the borrower notified of their rights to an appeal review in accordance with subpart B of part 1900 of this chapter. Note: If borrower becomes more than one installment behind, he/she is no longer eligible.

(2) Pending requests for primary loan servicing will continue to be considered as set forth in subpart S of this part. However, borrowers cannot accept servicing under both programs.

(i) Borrowers determined eligible for the DSA program and primary loan servicing in accordance with subpart S of this part will be required to choose between the two program requests. The choice will be noted in the borrower case file and initialed by the borrower.

(ii) Borrowers may choose to proceed with the DSA program prior to a decision being made for primary loan servicing such as in cases where a decision will not be available on the primary loan servicing application prior to the borrower becoming more than one installment behind.

(iii) The application for the program not chosen will automatically be withdrawn at the time the installment(s) is set-aside or the loan(s) restructured, whichever is applicable. This voluntary withdrawal is not appealable.

(iv) By signing Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office), the borrower agrees to the withdrawal of any pending request for primary loan servicing. The borrower may resubmit a request at any time according to subpart S of this part.

(b) *Processing.* Installments will be set-aside as set forth in this paragraph.

(1) All borrowers liable for the debt will sign Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office), for each loan installment set-aside. Exhibit A may be modified with the assistance of the Office of the General Counsel to comply with individual State laws.

(2) Only one unpaid installment for each FP loan may be set-aside.

(i) The installment set-aside will be the first scheduled annual installment due immediately after the disaster occurred, or if that installment is paid current, the next scheduled annual installment. Set-aside will not be granted on the loan if both of these installments are paid current.

(ii) The amount set-aside will not exceed the annual scheduled installment being set-aside minus any portion of that installment paid prior to Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office), being signed by the borrower. This amount will include the unpaid interest and any principal that would be credited to the account as if the installment were paid on the due date.

(iii) Recoverable cost items charged to FO, SW, and RHF loans may be set-aside with the annual installment. Cost items identified with a loan number different from the parent loan cannot be set-aside.

(3) Interest will accrue on any principal amount set-aside at the same rate charged the non-set-aside portion. Interest will not accrue on the interest portion set-aside.

(4) The amount set-aside, including interest accrual on any principal set-aside, will be due on or before the final due date of the loan.

(5) There are no additional security requirements attached to the DSA

program. All existing security instruments will remain in effect.

(6) The original Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office), will be stapled to the respective original promissory note or assumption agreement filed in the County Office operational file. A copy will be stapled to the copy of the promissory note or assumption agreement filed in position 2 of the borrower's case file.

(7) Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office), will be used as the source document to process the DSA through the Automated Discrepancy Processing System (ADPS). Until automation capabilities are implemented, Exhibit A should be placed in a pending file and the borrower's account flagged "51-S." The Finance Office borrower account status reports will reflect the amount(s) set-aside for each loan.

(8) The National Automated Tracking System (AGCREDIT) will be utilized to document the notification and servicing scheme associated with this subpart.

(9) The loan(s) will be considered current after the installment(s) is set-aside and, therefore, debt writedown or net recovery buyout may not be subsequently approved under subpart S of this part, and loans may not be made under § 1941.14 of subpart A of part 1941 of this chapter, unless the set-aside is reversed as set forth in § 1951.958(b)(2) of this subpart or the borrower becomes delinquent on the non-set-aside portion.

(c) *Adverse determination.* Borrowers who do not meet the requirements for the DSA program will be notified of their appeal rights in accordance with subpart B of part 1900 of this chapter. If the borrower becomes more than one installment behind on any FP loan while processing the DSA request, or while an appeal is being considered, and the second installment cannot be paid current prior to Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office), being signed, the DSA request will be denied and/or any associated appeal request withdrawn. Being denied set-aside based on the failure to meet the not-more-than-one-installment-behind requirement is not an appealable issue, but is reviewable. The letter to the borrower will describe in full detail all the reasons for the adverse decision. Borrowers denied DSA will continue to be serviced in accordance with subpart S of this part.

§ 1951.958 Supervision and servicing of borrowers with DSA.

(a) *Supervision.* Borrower supervision will continue as set forth in subpart B of part 1924 of this chapter.

(b) *Servicing*. FP loans will continue to be serviced in accordance with the appropriate servicing regulations.

(1) Payments applied to the amount set-aside will be processed as a miscellaneous payment on Form FmHA 451-2, "Schedule of Remittances."

(2) The set-aside will be reversed and Exhibit A of this subpart, (available in any FmHA Office), cancelled if, prior to the first scheduled installment due date after set-aside, the current borrower needs a writedown in order to develop a feasible plan or a net recovery buyout in accordance with subpart S of this part or loan assistance set forth in § 1941.14 of subpart A of part 1941 of this chapter. The Finance Office must be notified by memorandum of the set-aside reversal prior to the time assistance is granted. A copy of the memorandum will be attached to Exhibit A and remain stapled to the promissory note or assumption agreement as indicated in § 1951.957(b)(6) of this subpart.

(3) In cases not covered by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the set-aside will be considered automatically cancelled whenever a program loan receives primary loan servicing.

(4) Releases of normal income security will continue as set forth in subpart A of part 1962 of this chapter.

§ 1951.959 Exception authority.

The Administrator may, in individual cases, make an exception to any requirement or provision of this subpart or address any omission of this subpart which is not inconsistent with the authorizing statute or other applicable law if it is determined that application of the requirement or provision or failure to take action in the case of an omission would adversely affect the Government's interest. The Administrator will exercise this authority upon the request of the State Director with the recommendation of the Assistant Administrator for Farmer Programs, or upon request initiated by the Assistant Administrator for Farmer Programs. Requests for exception must be made in writing and supported with documentation to explain the adverse effect and proposed alternative courses of action, and to show how the adverse effect will be eliminated or minimized if the exception is granted.

§§ 1951.960-1951.999 [Reserved]

§ 1951.1000 OMB control number.

The collection of information requirements in this regulation have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned OMB control number 0575-0163. Public reporting burden for this collection of

information is estimated to be 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Clearance Office OIRM, Room 404-W, Washington D.C. 20250; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (OMB# 0575-0163), Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: August 26, 1994.

Bob Nash,

Under Secretary, Small Community and Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 94-26160 Filed 10-20-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-07-U

FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSURANCE CORPORATION

12 CFR Part 1403

RIN 3055-AAOO

Privacy Act Regulations

AGENCY: Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (Corporation) issues an interim rule to implement the requirements of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, relating to the receipt and processing of requests for Corporation Privacy Act records, requests for amendment of records, fees to be charged, procedures to be followed in processing requests for records, and criminal penalties. Also, the interim rule includes a provision relating to the use of a specific exemption, 5 U.S.C. 552(k)(5), for a system of records. The regulations will assist the public in requesting Privacy Act records.

DATES: Effective November 21, 1994. Written comments are due November 21, 1994. Notice of the effective date will be published in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be mailed (in triplicate) to Mary A. Creedon, Chief Operating Officer, in care of Cindy Nicholson, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826. Copies of all communications received will be available for examination by interested

parties in the offices of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark McBeth, Privacy Act Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826, (703) 883-4345, TDD (703) 883-4444.

or

Jane M. Virga, Senior Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826, (703) 883-4071, TDD (703) 883-4444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 13, 1994, the Corporation proposed regulations setting forth procedures to be used in requesting access to and responding to requests for Corporation Privacy Act records. See 59 FR 24988. Essentially, the Corporation proposed regulations that provided that all requests for access to Corporation Privacy Act records must be in writing and signed by the subject of the record, adequately describe the material sought, and be sent to the Corporation in McLean, Virginia. The proposed regulations delegated to the Privacy Act Officer authority to make initial determinations concerning requests for access to records. The proposed regulations provided procedures for requests for amendment of records and the appeal of an initial adverse determination on a request to amend a record. Finally, the proposed regulations provided a fee structure. The Corporation did not receive any written comments in response to the proposed regulations.

After publication of the proposed rule, the Corporation determined that a specific exemption was appropriate for a system of records. The Corporation now wishes to adopt a regulation providing for the specific exemption under 5 U.S.C. 552(k)(5) of a system of records pertaining to the personnel security files of the agency. The head of an agency may promulgate rules to exempt any system of records within the agency from subsections (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4) (G), (H), and (I), and (f) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, if the system of records is investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment, but only to the extent that the disclosure of such material would reveal the identity of a source who furnished information to the government under an express promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence.

In order to ensure appropriate maintenance and use of Corporation records, as well as orderly and timely

access to Corporation records, it was determined that the regulation should be adopted as an interim rule. However, comments are sought on this regulation.

The Corporation now adopts 12 CFR part 1403 as an interim rule.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 1403

Archives and records, Bonds, Information, Insurance, Privacy, Records.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, part 1403 of Chapter XIV, title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations is added to read as follows:

PART 1403—PRIVACY ACT REGULATIONS

Sec.

- 1403.1 Purpose and scope.
- 1403.2 Definitions.
- 1403.3 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.
- 1403.4 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.
- 1403.5 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.
- 1403.6 Special procedures for medical records.
- 1403.7 Request for amendment to record.
- 1403.8 Agency review of request for amendment of record.
- 1403.9 Appeal of an initial adverse determination of a request to amend a record.
- 1403.10 Fees for providing copies of records.
- 1403.11 Criminal penalties.
- 1403.12 Exemptions.

Authority: Secs. 5.58, 5.59 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2277a-7, 2277a-8); 5 U.S.C. app. 3, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

§ 1403.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part is published by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-579, 5 U.S.C. 552a) which requires each Federal agency to promulgate rules to establish procedures for notification and disclosure to an individual of agency records pertaining to that person, and for review of such records.

(b) The records covered by this part include:

(1) Personnel and employment records maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation not covered by §§ 293.101 through 293.108 of the regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (5 CFR 293.101 through 293.108); and

(2) Other records contained in record systems maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(c) This part does not apply to any records maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation in its capacity as a receiver or conservator.

§ 1403.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

(a) *Agency* means the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation. It does not include the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation when it is acting as a receiver or a conservator;

(b) *Individual* means a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

(c) *Maintain* includes maintain, collect, use, or disseminate;

(d) *Record* means any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by an agency including, but not limited to, that person's education, financial transactions, medical history, and criminal or employment history, and that contains that person's name, or the identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, such as a finger or voice print or photograph;

(e) *Routine use* means, with respect to the disclosure of a record, the use of such record for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which it was collected;

(f) *Statistical record* means a record in a system of records maintained for statistical research or reporting purposes only and not used in whole or in part in making any determination about an identifiable individual, except as provided by 13 U.S.C. 8;

(g) *System of records* means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of an individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

§ 1403.3 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.

(a) Any present or former employee of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation seeking access to that person's official civil service records maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall submit a request in such manner as is prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) Individuals shall submit their requests in writing to the Privacy Act Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826, when seeking to obtain the following information from the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation:

(1) Notification of whether the agency maintains a record pertaining to that person in a system of records;

(2) Notification of whether the agency has disclosed a record for which an accounting of disclosure is required to be maintained and made available to that person;

(3) A copy of a record pertaining to that person or the accounting of its disclosure; or

(4) The review of a record pertaining to that person or the accounting of its disclosure.

The request shall state the full name and address of the individual, and identify the system or systems of records believed to contain the information or record sought.

§ 1403.4 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.

The individual making written requests for information or records ordinarily will not be required to verify that person's identity. The signature upon such requests shall be deemed to be a certification by the requester that he or she is the individual to whom the record pertains, or the parent of a minor, or the duly appointed legal guardian of the individual to whom the record pertains. The Privacy Act Officer, however, may require such additional verification of identity in any instance in which the Privacy Act Officer deems it advisable.

§ 1403.5 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.

(a) The Privacy Act Officer shall, within a reasonable period of time after the date of receipt of a request for information of records:

(1) Determine whether or not such request shall be granted;

(2) Notify the requester of the determination, and, if the request is denied, of the reasons therefor; and

(3) Notify the requester that fees for reproducing copies of records may be charged as provided in § 1403.10.

(b) If access to a record is denied because the information therein has been compiled by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation in reasonable anticipation of a civil or criminal action proceeding, the Privacy Act Officer shall notify the requester of that person's right to judicial appeal under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g).

(c) (1) If access to a record is granted, the requester shall notify the Privacy Act Officer whether the requested record is to be copied and mailed to the requester or whether the record is to be made available for personal inspection.

(2) A requester who is an individual may be accompanied by an individual selected by the requester when the record is disclosed, in which case the requester may be required to furnish a written statement authorizing the discussion of the record in the presence of the accompanying person.

(d) If the record is to be made available for personal inspection, the

requester shall arrange with the Privacy Act Officer a mutually agreeable time in the offices of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation for inspection of the record.

§ 1403.6 Special procedures for medical records.

Medical records in the custody of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation which are not subject to Office of Personnel Management regulations shall be disclosed either to the individual to whom they pertain or that person's authorized or legal representative or to a licensed physician named by the individual.

§ 1403.7 Request for amendment to record.

(a) If, after disclosure of the requested information, an individual believes that the record is not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete, that person may request in writing that the record be amended. Such a request shall be submitted to the Privacy Act Officer and shall identify the system of records and the record or information therein, a brief description of the material requested to be changed, the requested change or changes, and the reason for such change or changes.

(b) The Privacy Act Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the request within 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) and, if a determination has not been made, advise the individual when that person may expect to be advised of action taken on the request. The acknowledgment may contain a request for additional information needed to make a determination.

§ 1403.8 Agency review of request for amendment of record.

Upon receipt of a request for amendment of a record, the Privacy Act Officer shall:

(a) Correct any portion of a record which the individual making the request believes is not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete and thereafter inform the individual in writing of such correction, or

(b) Inform the individual in writing of the refusal to amend the record and of the reasons therefor, and advise that the individual may appeal such determination as provided in § 1403.9.

§ 1403.9 Appeal of an initial adverse determination of a request to amend a record.

(a) Not more than 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt by an individual of an adverse determination on the individual's request to amend a record

or otherwise, the individual may appeal to the Chief Operating Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826.

(b) The appeal shall be by letter, mailed or delivered to the Chief Operating Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826. The letter shall identify the records involved in the same manner they were identified to the Privacy Act Officer, shall specify the dates of the request and adverse determination, and shall indicate the expressed basis for that determination. Also, the letter shall state briefly and succinctly the reasons why the adverse determination should be reversed.

(c) The review shall be completed and a final determination made by the Chief Operating Officer not later than 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) from receipt of the request for such review, unless the Chief Operating Officer extends such 30-day period for good cause. If the 30-day period is extended, the individual shall be notified of the reasons therefor.

(d) If the Chief Operating Officer refuses to amend the record in accordance with the request, the individual shall be notified of the right to file a concise statement setting forth that person's disagreement with the final determination and that person's right under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g)(1)(A) to a judicial review of the final determination.

(e) If the refusal to amend a record as requested is confirmed, there shall be included in the disputed portion of the record a copy of the concise statement filed by the individual together with a concise statement of the reasons for not amending the record as requested. Such statements will be included when disclosure of the disputed record is made to persons and agencies as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 552a.

§ 1403.10 Fees for providing copies of records.

Fees for providing copies of records shall be charged in accordance with §§ 1402.22 and 1402.24 of this chapter.

§ 1403.11 Criminal penalties.

Section 552a(i)(3) of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3)) makes it a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000, to knowingly and willfully request or obtain any record concerning any individual from an agency under false pretenses. Sections 552a(i)(1) and (2) of the Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1), (2)) provide penalties for violation by agency employees of the Act or regulations established thereunder.

§ 1403.12 Exemptions.

Specific. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5), the investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes in the following system of records is exempt from subsections (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4) (G), (H), and (I), and (f) of 5 U.S.C. 552a and from the provisions of this part:

Personnel Security Files—FCSIC.

Dated: October 18, 1994.

Curtis M. Anderson,

Secretary to the Board, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 94-26178 Filed 10-20-94; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 6710-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 121

[Docket No. 27065; Amendment No. 121-237]

RIN 2120-AE43

Alcohol Misuse Prevention Program for Personnel Engaged in Specified Aviation Activities

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Technical amendment.

SUMMARY: This document contains technical amendments to the final rule establishing the alcohol misuse prevention program (AMPP). The final rule was published February 15, 1994. These amendments correct typographical errors or clarify provisions to reflect the FAA's actual intent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 21, 1994.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Aviation Medicine, Drug Abatement Division (AMA-800), Federal Aviation Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 366-6710.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Notice

Any person may obtain a copy of this notice by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Public Affairs, Attn: Public Inquiry Center (APA-230), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-3484. Requests must include the notice number of this notice.

Persons interested in being placed on a mailing list for future rulemaking actions should request a copy of Advisory Circular 11-2A. Notice of