

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 890

[Docket ID: OPM-2023-0037]

RIN 3206-AO47

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Modification of Effective Date of Coverage for Employees With an Initial Opportunity To Enroll

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management withdraws a proposed rule published on February 1, 2024. The notice of proposed rulemaking proposed to modify the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) regulations and would have also applied to the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program, to allow for coverage to take effect as soon as an employee becomes eligible for coverage under the FEHB Program.

DATES: OPM withdraws the proposed rule as of February 3, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this withdrawn rule is available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/OPM-2023-0037>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Meredith Gitangu by email at meredith.gitangu@opm.gov or by telephone at 202-606-2378.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 1, 2024, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM or proposed rule) titled "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Modification of Effective Date of Coverage for Employees with an Initial Opportunity to Enroll," in the *Federal Register*. See 89 FR 6436. The NPRM proposed to modify the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) regulations to allow for coverage to take effect as soon as an employee becomes eligible for coverage under the FEHB Program. The

rulemaking would have also applied to the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program within the FEHB Program. The proposed changes would have allowed FEHB and PSHB coverage to become effective at the beginning of the pay period that the employee in pay status has an initial opportunity to enroll.

In response to the NPRM, OPM received approximately 47 comments during the 60-day comment period which ended on April 1, 2024. Some commenters raised significant implementation and legal concerns with the proposal.

OPM is withdrawing the proposed rule and does not intend to issue a final rule. OPM did not receive widespread support from the larger federal employee population or agency partners, including those from outside the executive branch that would have been impacted by the changes in the proposed rule. We have determined that pursuing a final rule does not align with current needs, priorities, and objectives. Further, the associated costs are not an effective use of limited agency resources and valuable taxpayer dollars.

The Director of OPM, Scott Kupor, reviewed and approved this document and has authorized the undersigned to electronically sign and submit this document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Office of Personnel Management.

Jerson Matias,
Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 2026-02192 Filed 2-2-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2026-0736; Project Identifier MCAI-2025-00698-R]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for

certain Bell Textron Canada Limited (BTCL) Model 407 helicopters. This proposed AD was prompted by a determination that chafing can occur at various locations on the electrical harnesses located in the aircraft instrument panel area. This proposed AD would require a one-time detailed visual inspection of the electrical harnesses for chafing and corrective actions if necessary. This proposed AD would also require rotation of the backshell cast housing of connectors of the lower engine airframe unit and installation of a wire harness bracket and support, and for certain helicopters, installation of a wire bundle sleeve. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this NPRM by March 20, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. FAA-2026-0736; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For Transport Canada material identified in this proposed AD, contact Transport Canada, Transport Canada National Aircraft Certification, 159 Cleopatra Drive, Nepean, Ontario, K1A 0N5, CANADA; phone: (888) 663-3639; email: TC.AirworthinessDirectives-Consignesdenavigabilite.TC@tc.gc.ca. You may find the Transport Canada material on the Transport Canada website at tc.canada.ca/en/aviation.