

Guidance for Open Skies Agreements

Overview and Key Concepts

The Fly America Act is a federal regulation which states that any foreign air travel financed by federal funds must be booked on U.S. Flag Air Carriers, regardless of cost or convenience. The biggest exceptions to the Fly America Act are the Open Skies Agreements. The United States Government has entered into several air transport agreements that allow federal funded travelers to use foreign air carriers under certain circumstances. There are currently four Open Skies Agreements in effect between the US and the European Union, Australia, Japan and Switzerland.

NOTE – Travel funded by the Department of Defense (DOD) is not supported by the Open Skies Agreements – all DOD funded travel must be on US Air Carriers.

Guidelines

The Open Skies Agreements allow federal funded travelers to use foreign air carriers in the following situations:

- **European Union**
When traveling to a destination serviced by a European Union airline, travelers flying on a Federal grant can fly on either a US carrier or an EU (European Union) carrier.
- **Australia**
Travelers using federal dollars can use an Australian airline only if a point of origin/destination is either the US or Australia and there is no city-pair contract flight between the two points (origin and destination) or the air travel is between two points outside the United States.
- **Switzerland**
Travelers using federal dollars can use a Swiss airline only if a point of origin/destination is either the US or Switzerland and there is no city-pair contract flight between the two points (origin and destination) or the air travel is between two points outside the United States.
- **Japan**
Travelers using federal dollars can use a Japanese airline only if a point of origin/destination is either the US or Japan and there is no city-pair contract flight between the two points (origin and destination) or the air travel is between two points outside the United States.

Definitions

City Pair Program CPP The City Pair Program (CPP) offers fares considerably lower than comparable commercial fares, saving the federal government billions of dollars annually. Washington University travelers on federal funds cannot utilize city-pair contracts. Only government employees are authorized to use the city-pair contracts. However, the existence of the city-pair contract negates the ability to use the member state air carrier for travel to that destination and you must use a US flag air carrier in those cases.

Helpful Links

Fly America FAQ - <http://www.spa.wustl.edu>

Fly America Act-Open Skies Matrix – <http://www.spa.wustl.edu>

GSA Fly America - <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103191>

Open Skies - <http://www.state.gov/e/eb/tra/ata/index.htm>

Open Skies Partners - <http://www.state.gov/e/eb/rls/othr/ata/114805.htm>

It is suggested that you contact SPA prior to booking the travel if you feel that you qualify for one of the exceptions. SPA will review the specific travel scenario to help determine if it meets the exceptions. Please contact Krystina Gross at 935-5793 or kgross@wustl.edu or Elizabeth Colletta at 935-5757 or ecolletta@wustl.edu for inquiries about the Fly America Act and Open Skies agreements or the review of a specific travel scenario.