

## **Fly America Act**

Under the Fly America Act, only U.S. flag air carriers shall be used for travel reimbursed from federal grants and contracts, unless one of the following exceptions applies:

1. Use of U.S. flag air carrier service would extend travel time (including delay at origin) by 24 hours or more.
2. U.S. flag air carriers do not offer nonstop or direct service between origin and destination. However, a U.S. flag air carrier must be used on every portion of the route where it provides service, unless when compared to using a foreign air carrier, such use would:
  - Increase the number of aircraft changes outside the United States by two or more,
  - Extend travel time by at least 6 hours or more,
  - Require a connecting time of 4 hours or more at an overseas interchange point.
- 3) When the costs of transportation are reimbursed in full by a third party, such as an international government or an international agency.

Code Share flights on U.S. flag air carriers operated by foreign carriers are allowable under the Fly America Act. The ticket is considered a Code Share flight if it is purchased from a U.S. flag air carrier but flies on the aircraft carrier of another airline. The issued ticket by a U.S. flag air carrier states "U.S. Air Carrier flight XXXX operated by Foreign Air Carrier". There may be a list of code share partners on the U.S. flag air carrier website, however, not all flights on the partner airlines are operated under a code share agreement. Only flights booked properly through the code share are allowable.

Allowable: AA 1234 operated by QF 4321 (AA = American Airlines, QF = Qantas Airways)

Unallowable: QF 4321 operated by AA 1234

Convenience and cost are NOT considerations on whether the use of a Foreign Air Carrier on Federally Funded Travel can be waived.

Below is a list of major U.S. flag air carriers:

- Airtran Airways (FL)
- Alaska Airlines (AS)
- American Airlines (AA)
- Continental Airlines (CO)
- Delta Airlines (DL)
- Frontier Airlines (F9)
- Hawaiian Airlines (HA)

- JetBlue Airways (B6)
- Midwest Express (YX)
- Southwest Airlines (WN)
- Spirit Airlines (NK)
- United Airlines (UA)
- US Airways (US)

For a complete list of certified air carriers, please visit the [U.S. General Services Administration Fly America Act](#).

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has updated their travel policy to accept travel under the Open Skies Agreement. In addition, other sponsors may accept the conditions under Open Skies for federally funded grant travel.

#### Points for Consideration when Booking Foreign Grant Travel

Not all sponsors accept the Open Skies agreement, so before booking non-US Carriers, please follow-up with Research & Sponsored Programs (RSP) to verify the terms and conditions of your awards.

We recommend booking airfare directly with the U.S. flag air carrier to ensure compliance with the Fly America Act. If you must use a travel website or travel agency, then you should verify that the flights you are purchasing are being issued by the U.S. flag air carrier. Travel agencies are not always aware of the source of funds you are using to pay for travel and the need to fly on a U.S. flag air carrier.

When an Open Skies agreement is in place, use of a foreign carrier is allowed when transportation is between the U.S. and any point in the agreement member state or between two points outside the U.S. provided that: funding is not provided by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department. For a complete list of countries the U.S. has Open Skies agreements, visit the [U.S. General Services Administration](#).

Note: When one or more of the above circumstances apply, an explanation indicating the appropriate exception must be provided on the Travel Expense Claim (TEC).