

3301 GD.02

Use of U.S. Flag Carriers for Foreign Travel Sponsored by Grants and Contracts

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Federal requirements (i.e. Fly America Act) state that domestic grantees must use U.S. flag air carriers to the maximum extent possible.

Any air transportation to, from, between or within a country other than the U.S. of persons or property paid for from U.S. federal funds must be performed by or under a code-sharing arrangement with a U.S. flag air carrier if service provided by such carrier is available. Tickets or documentation for electronic tickets must identify the US flag air carrier's designator code and flight number

For purposes of this requirement, the U.S. flag air carrier service is considered available even though a

- comparable or a different kind of service can be provided at less cost by a foreign flag carrier, or
- foreign flag carrier service is preferred or more convenient.

Travel between the U.S. and another country

Below are some exceptions that only apply when your travel is between the U.S. and another country.

- if a U.S. flag air carrier offers nonstop or direct service (no aircraft change) from your origin to your destination, you have to use a U.S. air carrier, UNLESS, use of the U.S. air carrier would extend your travel time, including a delay at your origin, by 24 hours or more.
- if a U.S. flag air carrier does not offer nonstop or direct service (no aircraft change) between your origin and your destination, you MUST use a U.S. air carrier on every portion of your route where the U.S. air carrier provides service, unless, when compared to using a foreign air carrier, use of the U.S. air carrier would
 - increase the number of aircraft changes you make outside the U.S. by 2 or more;
 - use of the U.S. air carrier would extend your travel time by at least 6 hours or more; or
 - the use of a U.S. air carrier would require a connecting time of 4 hours or more at an overseas interchange point.

Travel solely outside the U.S.

When you travel solely outside the U.S., and a U.S. flag air carrier provides service between your origin and destination, you have to use the U.S. flag air carrier unless when compared to using a foreign air carrier, use of the U.S. flag air carrier would:

- increase the number of aircraft changes you have to make en route by 2 or more;
- extend your travel time by 6 hours or more; or
- require a connecting time of 4 hours or more at an overseas interchange point.

Short distance travel

For all short distance travel, regardless of origin and destination, U.S. flag air carrier service will not be considered available when the elapsed travel time on a scheduled flight from origin to destination airport by a foreign air carrier is 3 hours or less and service by U.S. flag air carrier would involve twice the travel time.

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