Fly America Act and Open Skies Agreements

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Fly America Act -- Overview

Travel reimbursed from federal funds must be booked through US carriers. Exceptions:

- US carrier would extend travel time (including delay at origin) by 24 hours or more.
- If US carrier does not offer non-stop or direct service to foreign destination, you must use US carrier on every portion of the route it does provide service unless doing so would:
  - Increase number of aircraft changes outside US by two or more; or
  - Extend travel time by 6 hours or more; or
  - Require connecting time of 4 hours or more overseas.
Fly America Act – Other Exceptions

• Flying between foreign destinations -- foreign carrier may be used if booking a US carrier would:
  - Increase number of aircraft changes outside US by two or more; or
  - Extend travel time by 6 hours or more; or
  - Require connecting time of 4 hours or more overseas.

• Code-sharing agreement – foreign carrier may be used where US airline sell blocks of tickets on foreign carriers. Ticket must identify US carrier’s designator code/flight number.
Fly America Act – Other Exceptions

If “Open Skies Agreement” in place between US and foreign destination, foreign carrier may be used. Current Open Skies Agreements:

- EU
- Australia
- Switzerland
- Japan

But wait....
Fly America Act – Exception to the exception!

If a GSA “City Pair” contract is in place with an “Open Skies” destination other than the EU, a foreign carrier cannot be used.

Confused yet? Let’s see if we can make it simpler.
STEP ONE
Determine if there is a travel delay/code sharing exception that applies.

- If yes, you may use a foreign carrier.
- If no, go to Step Two.
STEP TWO

Is there an “Open Skies Agreement” in place between the US and foreign destination? ([http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103191](http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103191)).

- If yes and the departure/destination city is in the EU, you may use a foreign carrier
- If yes and the departure/destination city is not in the EU, go to Step Three.
- If no, you must “Fly America.”
STEP THREE

Is there a “City Pair” contract in place between the departure and destination cities? (http://apps.fss.gsa.gov/citypairs/search/).

- If yes, you must “Fly America”
- If no, you may use a foreign carrier
Questions?