

US Flag Air Carriers

When federal grants are used for international air tickets, travelers must comply the Fly America Act. Only federal funding sources need to comply with this act.

All travelers, including non-employees, purchasing air tickets with federal grants must be aware of and comply with the Fly America Act. Otherwise, the charges will be disallowed, even if the non-U.S. flag carrier was less expensive.

General Requirements of the Fly America Act

The original Fly America Act required a U.S. flag air carrier to be used for international flights whenever federal funds were used. A list of major U. S. flag air carriers (and their airline codes) includes:

- AirTran Airways (FL)
- Alaska Airlines / Horizon Air (AS)
- American Airlines (AA)
- Delta Airlines (DL)
- Frontier Airlines (F9)
- Hawaiian Airlines (HA)
- Jet Blue Airlines (B6)
- Southwest Airlines (WN)
- Spirit Airlines (NK)
- Sun Country Airlines (SY)
- United Airlines (UA)

* Boarding pass without passenger receipt is not acceptable for reimbursement.

Recent Amendments

The Fly America Act was amended by various [Open Skies Agreements](#), which may permit the use of a non-U.S. flag carrier when using federal funds. The Open Skies Agreements usually are nullified if there is a [city-pair agreement](#) in effect for that point of origin.

If the traveler has confirmed that no city-pair agreement is in effect, a non-U.S. flag carrier could be used. The traveler could use the [city pairs](#) site as a means of justifying the use of federal funds for a non-U.S. flag carrier.

Open Skies Agreement does not flow down to travel funded by the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI).

Allowable Code Share Agreements

A code share agreement is when a ticket is issued by a U. S. flag air carrier, although the seat is on a plane operated by a [non-U.S. flag carrier](#). For example, United Airlines may sell a ticket that includes some legs of a trip to Germany on a Lufthansa plane. To be compliant for federal funds, the ticket (or similar documentation, such as an itinerary) must show the U. S. flag air carrier's airline code next to the flight number for each leg of the trip. If the flight number had an airline code of **UA** for United Airlines, the ticket would be compliant, even if one or more legs of the trip were "Operated by Lufthansa." If the ticket had an airline code of **LH** for Lufthansa, the ticket would not be compliant, and could not be charged to federal funds.