



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAPA applauds strengthening of rights for disabled travelers in the US

The International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA) welcomes new steps taken by the US Department of Transportation to strengthen and extend protections against discrimination for air passengers with disabilities.

The key component of the new ruling is that US law's access rights for disabled travelers are to be extended to foreign airlines operating flights entering or departing the United States.

This means that US passengers flying abroad on foreign air carriers will now have similar protections against discriminatory policies and be entitled to the same accommodations as passengers flying on US airlines.

The new ruling also includes a number of new changes to the 21 year old law which will apply to all carriers. For example, all air carriers will be required to allow passengers with respiratory illnesses to take onboard approved portable oxygen concentrates and also provide greater accommodations for passengers with hearing and vision impairments by requiring airlines to include easy-to-read captions in its safety and informational videos.

Additionally, airlines must provide the same information to hearing and vision impaired passengers that it offers to other passengers in airport terminals or on the aircraft. Examples include status updates on flight, gate and boarding announcements.

Foreign carriers will have a twelve month compliance window to comply with the order or request DOT waivers if they conflict with foreign laws.

These are important steps forward in ensuring that disabled passengers can travel with the levels of service and protection they are entitled to.

End

Notes to the Editor:

About IAPA

IAPA (The International Airline Passenger Association) has been at the forefront of travel issues for 47 years. IAPA was set up to represent the interests of frequent air travelers by protecting and promoting their rights as airline passengers, as well as providing them with special group discounts on items such as hotel accommodation, car rental and insurance.

Since its inception IAPA has been campaigning on behalf of frequent travelers - on safety and security, improving passenger comfort and getting better value for money. We pride ourselves in informing our members about the wider travel community issues that affect them, and represent airline passenger interests to industry and government bodies.

We strive to meet the needs of the frequent flyer and continue to stand up for the rights of the individual passenger at all opportunities.

For further information, please contact: David Stamey, Director, Consumer & Industry Affairs at IAPA USA, or Jonathan French, IAPA Brand & PR Director at IAPA UK or go to www.iapa.com.

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