

- **U.S. Flag Air Carriers.** Under the Fly America Act, only U.S. air carriers⁵ shall be used for travel reimbursed from federal grants and contracts. However, there are exceptions to using only U.S. air carrier services under the Fly America Act, depending on the scenarios shown below:
- Generally, U.S. air carrier services that provide nonstop or direct service from the origin to the destination must be used, **unless** such use would extend travel time, including delay at origin, by 24 hours or more;
- Generally, U.S. air carrier services that do not offer nonstop or direct service between origin and destination 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; or
 - Extend travel time by at least 6 hours or more; or
 - Require a connecting time of 4 hours or more at an overseas interchange point.
- When the costs of transportation are reimbursed in full by a third party, such as a foreign government or an international agency, U.S. air carriers do **not** have to be used.
- **Open Skies Agreements.** “[Open Skies Agreements](#)” are bilateral or multilateral air transportation agreements to which the United States and the government of a foreign country are parties. Under the Open Skies Agreements, the United States government entered into several air transport agreements that allow federal funded transportation services for travel and cargo movements to use foreign air carriers **under certain circumstances**. The [Department of State’s website](#) contains a list of countries the U.S. government has Open Skies Agreements with, including policy information contained in the various Open Skies Agreements. Transportation is allowed between a point in the United States and any point in a member state or between two points outside the United States except when:
 - Transportation is between points for which there is a City-Pair contract fare in effect for air transportation services, or
 - Transportation is obtained or funded by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department.

Travelers funded by federal grants and contracts should review the [Federal Travel Regulation](#) published by the General Services Administration on its website for any Open Skies or City-Pair requirements.

Reimbursement of travel on a foreign air carrier may be denied in the absence of such justification.