

§ 234.1

NOTE: The reporting requirements contained in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2138-0041.

§ 234.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to set forth required data that certain air carriers must submit to the Department and to computer reservations system vendors in computerized form, except as otherwise provided, so that information on air carriers' quality of service can be made available to consumers of air transportation. This part also requires that service quality data be disclosed directly to consumers.

§ 234.2 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part:

Cancelled flight means a flight operation that was not operated, but was listed in a carrier's computer reservation system within seven calendar days of the scheduled departure.

Discontinued flight means a flight dropped from a carrier's computer reservation system more than seven calendar days before its scheduled departure.

Diverted flight means a flight which is operated from the scheduled origin point to a point other than the scheduled destination point in the carrier's published schedule. For example, a carrier has a published schedule for a flight from A to B to C. If the carrier were to actually fly an A to C operation, the A to B segment is a diverted flight, and the B to C segment is a cancelled flight.

Extra-section flight means a flight conducted as an integral part of scheduled passenger service, that has not been provided for in published schedules and is required for transportation of traffic that cannot be accommodated on the regularly scheduled flight.

Flight means any nonstop scheduled passenger flight segment with a specific flight number scheduled to be operated pursuant to a published schedule within a specific origin-destination city pair, other than transborder or foreign air transportation. In the case of reporting to computer reservations system vendors, *flight* also means one-stop or multi-stop single plane scheduled operations that include any flight

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segments for which performance is reported pursuant to this part.

Late or late flight means a flight that arrives at the gate 15 minutes or more after its published arrival time.

Mishandled-baggage report means a report filed with a carrier by or on behalf of a passenger that claims loss, delay, damage or pilferage of baggage.

New flight means a flight added to a carrier's schedule to operate in a specific origin-destination city pair and not scheduled to depart within 30 minutes of any discontinued flight that was contained in the carrier's published schedules for the same city pair during the previous month.

On-time means a flight that arrives less than 15 minutes after its published arrival time.

On-time performance means the percentage of scheduled operations of a specific flight that an air carrier operates on-time during a month.

On-time performance code means a single character determined in accordance with the provisions of this part that reflects the monthly on-time performance of certain nonstop flights and single plane one-stop or multi-stop flights, the schedule and availability of which are listed in a computer reservation system (CRS) regulated by 14 CFR part 255.

Reportable flight means any nonstop flight, including a mechanically delayed flight, to or from any airport within the contiguous 48 states that accounts for at least 1 percent of domestic scheduled-passenger enplanements in the previous calendar year, as reported to the Department pursuant to part 241 of this title. Qualifying airports will be specified periodically in accounting and reporting directives issued by the Office of Airline Information.

Reporting carrier means an air carrier certificated under 49 U.S.C. 41102 that accounted for at least 1 percent of domestic scheduled-passenger revenues in the 12 months ending March 31 of each year, as reported to the Department pursuant to part 241 of this title. Reporting carriers will be identified periodically in accounting and reporting directives issued by the Office of Airline Information.

Wet-leased flight means a flight operated with a leased aircraft and crew.

[Amdt. 234-1, 52 FR 34071, Sept. 9, 1987, as amended by Docket No. 48524, 59 FR 49797, Sept. 30, 1994; 60 FR 66722, Dec. 26, 1995]

§ 234.3 Applicability.

This part applies to certain domestic scheduled passenger flights that are held out to the public by certificated air carriers that account for at least 1 percent of domestic scheduled passenger revenues. Certain provisions also apply to voluntary reporting to on-time performance by carriers.

§ 234.4 Reporting of on-time performance.

(a) Each reporting carrier shall file BTS Form 234 "On-Time Flight Performance Report" with the Office of Airline Information on a monthly basis, setting forth the information for each of its reportable flights held out in the *Official Airline Guide* (OAG), in the computer reservations systems (CRS), or in other schedule publications. The reportable flights include, but are not limited to, cancelled flights, mechanically cancelled flights, diverted flights, new flights and wet-leased flights. The report shall be made in the form and manner set forth in accounting and reporting directives issued by the Director, Office of Airline Statistics, and shall contain the following information:

- (1) Carrier and flight number.
- (2) Aircraft tail number.
- (3) Origin and Destination airport codes.
- (4) Published OAG departure and arrival times for each scheduled operation of the flight.
- (5) CRS scheduled arrival and departure time for each scheduled operation of the flight.
- (6) Actual departure and arrival time for each operation of the flight.
- (7) Difference in minutes between OAG and CRS scheduled arrival times.
- (8) Difference in minutes between OAG and CRS scheduled departure times.
- (9) Actual wheels-off and wheels-on times for each operation of the flight.
- (10) Date and day of week of scheduled flight operation.

(11) Scheduled elapsed time, according to CRS schedule.

(12) Actual elapsed time.

(13) Amount of departure delay, if any.

(14) Amount of arrival delay, if any.

(15) Amount of elapsed time difference, if any.

(16) Causal code for cancellation, if any.

(17) Minutes of delay attributed to the air carrier, if any.

(18) Minutes of delay attributed to extreme weather, if any.

(19) Minutes of delay attributed to the national aviation system, if any.

(20) Minutes of delay attributed to security, if any.

(21) Minutes of delay attributed to a previous late arriving aircraft, if any.

(b) When reporting the information specified in paragraph (a) of this section for a diverted flight, a reporting carrier shall use the original scheduled flight number and the original scheduled origin and destination airport codes. Carriers are not required to report causal information for diverted flights.

(c) A reporting carrier shall report the information specified in paragraph (a) of this section for a new flight beginning with the first day of the new scheduled operation.

(d) A reporting carrier shall not report the information specified in paragraph (a) of this section for any discontinued or extra-section flight.

(e) Actual arrival, departure and elapsed times shall be measured by the times at which the aircraft arrived at and departed from the gate or passenger loading area.

(f) The published arrival time and departure time of a flight shall be, respectively, the scheduled arrival and departure times in effect on the date of the scheduled operation of the flight, as shown in the most recent *Official Airline Guide*, and in computer reservations systems. Each carrier shall designate a single computer reservations system in addition to the *Official Airline Guide* as the sources of scheduled arrival time and departure time data in its reports to the Department and shall report the scheduled arrival times and departure times listed in those sources for each flight. Scheduled elapsed