Purpose of this Guide

The purpose of this guide is to determine if there is a GSA city pair contract that would restrict your use of a foreign carrier for your international travel itinerary.

Background

When booking travel to a grant chartstring, the Fly America Act requires the use of a United States flag carrier. One exception to the Fly America Act is if an Open Skies Agreement is in place. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) offers discounted air fares to federal government travelers under the Open Skies Agreements between the U.S and Australia, between the U.S and Japan, and between the U.S. and Switzerland. When a GSA contracted airfare is available for the route (called a "city pair"), the Open Skies Agreements are nullified. Even though NU employees cannot book travel at the GSA contracted rate, the Open Skies Agreements are still nullified.

For travel between U.S and Australia, between the U.S and Japan, or between the U.S. and Switzerland, a GSA Airline city pairs search must be performed to determine if Swiss, Australian or Japanese airlines are allowable for the specific trip. When using an Australian, Japanese, or Swiss air carrier for travel between the U.S. and these respective destinations, a copy of the city pairs search results (showing no results) must be attached to your expense report for the trip.

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Instructions

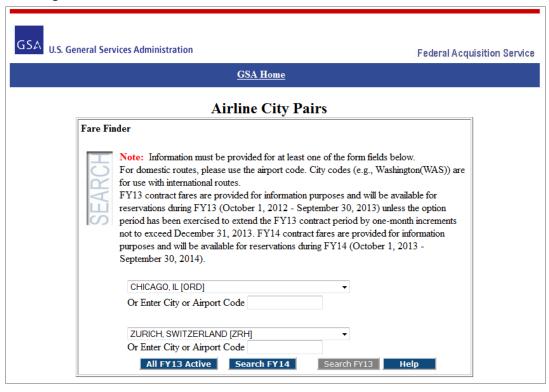
If there is *not* a GSA city pair contract in effect and you are traveling between the U.S and Australia, you may use an Australian carrier; or if you are flying between the U.S and Japan, you may use a Japanese carrier; or if you are flying between the U.S. and Switzerland, you may use a Swiss air carrier.

To determine if there is city pairs contract in effect, go to the City Pairs Program search page on the GSA's website: http://apps.fas.gsa.gov/citypairs/search/

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When you click on the GSA City Pairs Search link, you will be taken to the following screen. In order to complete the search, you must enter your Departure City and Arrival City. To execute the search, select the Federal fiscal year (October – September) when your trip will be taken.

For example, if you are traveling from the U.S. to Zurich, Switzerland, your entries would look like the following.



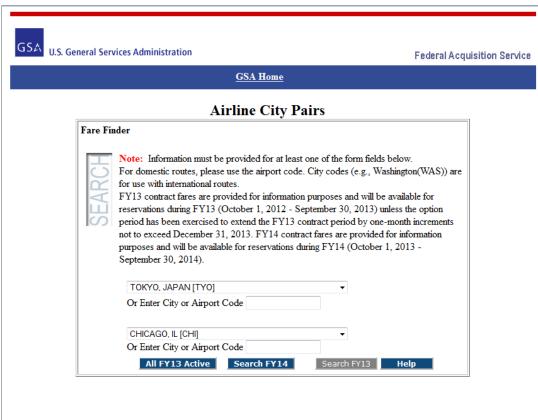
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For a trip taking place in Federal fiscal year 2014 to Zurich, Switzerland, the GSA City Pairs Search produced the following results.



There are no awards for the requested city pair. This means that it is permissible to fly with a Swiss, carrier for this itinerary. Please note these search results must be retained and attached to your expense report.

In another example, if you are traveling from Tokyo, Japan to the U.S., your entries would look like the following.



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For a trip taking place in Federal fiscal year 2014 from Tokyo, Japan, the GSA City Pairs Search produced the following results.



Since the government fares and contract date information fields were populated, this means there is a city pair agreement in place. Therefore, it is *not* permissible to fly a Japanese carrier for this destination. Please note these search results must be retained and attached to your expense report.

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