

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 108

[Docket No. FAA-19994536; Notice No. 99-05]

RIN 2120-AG51

Security of Checked Baggage on Flights Within the United States; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On April 19, 1999, the FAA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding security of checked baggage on flights within the United States and invited comments for a 60-day period. The comment period was originally scheduled to close on June 18, 1999; however, the FAA is extending the comment period an additional 60 days in response to a request from the Air Transport Association (ATA) for an extension to allow the ATA and its members to conduct an in-depth analysis of the proposal.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed or delivered, in duplicate, to U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets, Docket No. FAA-19995536; 400 Seventh St., SW, Rm. Plaza 401, Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be sent electronically to the following internet address: 9-NPRM-CMTS@faa.gov. Comments may be filed and/or examined in Room Plaza 401 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, except federal holidays.

Comments regarding national security information or sensitive security information should not be submitted to the public docket. These comments should be submitted according to procedures for safeguarding sensitive security information and sent to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Civil Aviation Security Operations, Attn: FAA Security Control Point, Docket No. FAA-1999-5536; 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington,

DC 20591. Questions on these procedures may be directed to Lon M. Siro (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lon M. Siro, Aviation Security Specialist, Civil Aviation Security Office of Policy and Planning, ACP-100, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3414.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments relating to the environmental, energy, federalism, or economic impact that might result from adopting the proposal are also invited. Substantive comments should be accompanied by cost estimates. Comments must identify the regulatory docket or notice number and be submitted in duplicate to the Rules Docket address specified above.

All comments received, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel on this proposed rulemaking, will be filed in the docket. The docket is available for public inspection before and after the comment closing date.

All comments received on or before the closing date will be considered by the Administrator before taking action. Late-filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable. The proposal may be changed in light of the comments received.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments must include a pre-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments to Docket No. FAA-1999-5536. The postcard will be date-stamped and mailed to the commenter.

Availability of NPRM's

An electronic copy of the NPRM may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the FAA regulations section of the Fedworld electronic bulletin board service (telephone: (703) 321-3339) the Government Printing Office's electronic

bulletin board service (telephone: (202) 512-1661), or, if applicable, the FAA's Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee bulletin board service (telephone: (800) 322-2722 or (202) 267-5948).

Internet users may reach the FAA's webpage at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/nprm/nprm.htm> or the Federal Register's web page at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara> for access to recently published rulemaking documents.

Any person may obtain a copy of the NPRM by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM-1, 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-9680. Communications must identify the docket number or notice number of the NPRM.

Persons interested in being placed on the mailing list for future rulemaking documents should request from the above office a copy of Advisory Circular No. 11-2A, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Distribution System, that describes the application procedure.

Extension of Comment Period

On April 19, 1999, the FAA published Notice No. 99-05, Security of Checked Baggage on Flights Within the United States (64 FR 19220). The FAA requested that comments to that document be submitted on or before June 18, 1999. By letter dated April 20, 1999, the Air Transport Association (ATA) requested that the FAA extend the comment period for 60 days. The ATA stated that the extension would allow both the ATA and its members to conduct an in-depth analysis of the proposal.

The FAA determines that extending the comment period is in the public interest and that good cause exists for taking this action. Accordingly, the comment period for Notice No. 99-05 is extended until August 17, 1999.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 4, 1999.

Anthony Fainberg,

Director, Office of Civil Aviation Security Policy and Planning.

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