

changes to procedures or tests identified as RC require approval of an AMOC.

**(n) Related Information**

(1) Refer to Mandatory Continuing Airworthiness Information (MCAI) EASA Airworthiness Directive 2017-0098, dated June 7, 2017, for related information. This MCAI may be found in the AD docket on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2017-1100.

(2) For more information about this AD, contact Sanjay Ralhan, Aerospace Engineer, International Section, Transport Standards Branch, FAA, 1601 Lind Avenue SW, Renton, WA 98057-3356; telephone 425-227-1405; fax 425-227-1149.

(3) For service information identified in this AD, contact Airbus, Airworthiness Office—ELAS, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France; telephone +33 5 61 93 36 96; fax +33 5 61 93 44 51; email [account.airworth-eas@airbus.com](mailto:account.airworth-eas@airbus.com); Internet <http://www.airbus.com>. You may view this service information at the FAA, Transport Standards Branch, 1601 Lind Avenue SW, Renton, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 425-227-1221.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on November 29, 2017.

**Jeffrey E. Duven,**

*Director, System Oversight Division, Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-26362 Filed 12-13-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Office of the Secretary**

**14 CFR Part 241**

[Docket No. RITA-2011-0001]

**RIN 2105-AE31**

**Ancillary Airline Passenger Revenues**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; withdrawal.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Transportation (the Department) is withdrawing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published on July 15, 2011 that proposed to collect detailed revenue information regarding airline imposed fees from those air carriers meeting the definition of a large certificated air carrier. We are withdrawing this rulemaking in light of the comments we received. The withdrawal of this rulemaking corresponds with the Department's and Administration's priorities and is consistent with the Executive Order 13771, Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs, January 30, 2017.

**DATES:** Amendatory instructions 3 through 6 of the proposed rule published July 15, 2011 (76 FR 41726), are withdrawn as of December 14, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** *Electronic Access:* You can view and download related documents and public comments by going to the website <http://www.regulations.gov>. Enter the docket number DOT-RITA-2011-0001 in the search field.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Zeenat Iqbal and Blane A. Workie, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, 1200 New Jersey SE, Room W96-414, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-9893, [zeenat.iqbal@dot.gov](mailto:zeenat.iqbal@dot.gov) (email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On July 7, 2011, the Office of the Secretary issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to collect detailed information about ancillary fees paid by airline consumers to determine the total amount of fees carriers collect through the *a la carte* pricing approach for optional services related to air transportation. The Department also proposed to alter its matrix for collecting and publishing data on mishandled baggage and to collect information regarding damage, delay or loss of wheelchairs and scooters transported in the aircraft cargo compartment. The final rule relating to reporting of data for mishandled baggage and wheelchairs (2104-AE41) was issued on November 2, 2016 (81 FR 76300). We are withdrawing the other topic covered in the proposed rule, the reporting of airline fee revenue.

*The NPRM*

In the NPRM, the Department proposed to create two stand-alone reporting forms, designated P-9 and P-9.1, to capture ancillary revenues. Specifically, air carriers with annual reporting revenue of \$20 million or more would be required to submit the P-9 form quarterly and air carriers with annual reporting revenue below \$20 million would be required to submit the form P-9.1 on a semiannual basis. The information required by the two proposed schedules was identical; they differed only in the required reporting frequency. The NPRM also proposed to define ancillary revenues as those charges paid by airline passengers that are not included in the standard ticket fare. The Department solicited comments on which items should be specifically identified as ancillary revenues, and proposed to collect data on 19 separate charges for optional services. The categories included: (1) Booking fees, (2) priority check-in and

security screening, (3) baggage, (4) in-flight medical equipment, (5) in-flight entertainment/internet access, (6) sleep sets, (7) in-flight food/non-alcoholic drinks, (8) alcoholic drinks, (9) pets, (10) seating assignments, (11) reservation cancellation and change fees; (12) charges for lost ticket; (13) unaccompanied minor/passenger assistance fee; (14) frequent flyer points/points acceleration; (15) commissions on travel packages; (16) travel insurance; (17) duty-free and retail sales; (18) one-time access to lounges and (19) other.

*Comments Received*

In response to the 2011 NPRM, the Department received approximately 280 comments from airlines, airports, trade associations, unions, consumer groups and private citizens who use this data. There was wide support among consumers and consumer rights groups for the proposed rule's reporting requirements. Consumers and consumer rights groups, as well as ACI-NA and Southwest Airlines, commented that the reporting requirement would bring the benefits of both increased transparency and improved data corroboration regarding the impact of ancillary fees on the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

On the other hand, most airlines and industry organizations commented that the proposed rule will not benefit the public because the Department has not demonstrated a need for this information. They asserted that the rule will not increase the transparency of pricing for airline revenues. Airlines also commented that if the justification for this rule is to tax ancillary revenues, the Department must state that justification. In addition, several airlines and industry groups suggested that the Department underestimated the proposed rule's economic burden on industry.

With regard to the proposed 19 categories, industry groups, consumer groups and airlines commented that the Department failed to justify the proposed categories and suggested various changes to the list of 19 charges for which air carriers would have to report revenues under the proposed rule. Carriers also expressed concern that the proposed reporting requirements would require carriers to reveal proprietary information to their competitors. Some carriers suggested that there is no correlation between a carrier's disclosure of itemized aggregate revenue data and consumer concerns regarding fare transparency. Southwest Airlines, which supported the Department's stated goal of making ticket pricing more transparent for

consumers, also urged the Department to reduce the number of categories by half.

#### *Reason for Withdrawal*

The purpose of this rulemaking was to make airline pricing more transparent to consumers and airline analysts. Although we believe there would be benefits of collecting and publishing the proposed aviation data, the Department also takes seriously industry concerns about the potential burden of this rule. The Department is withdrawing this rulemaking proposal. The withdrawal of this rulemaking corresponds with the Department's and Administration's priorities and is consistent with the Executive Order 13771, Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs, January 30, 2017.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 5, 2017.

**Elaine L. Chao,**

*Secretary of Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 2017-26708 Filed 12-13-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

#### 14 CFR Part 399

[Docket No. DOT-OST-2017-0007]

RIN 2105-AE56

#### Transparency of Airline Ancillary Service Fees

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary (OST), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of withdrawal of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Department is withdrawing the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) on Transparency of Airline Ancillary Service Fees issued on January 9, 2017. The SNPRM proposed to require air carriers, foreign air carriers, and ticket agents to clearly disclose to consumers at all points of sale customer-specific fee information, or itinerary-specific information if a customer elects not to provide customer-specific information, for a first checked bag, a second checked bag, and one carry-on bag wherever fare and schedule information is provided to consumers. The withdrawal of this rulemaking corresponds with the Department's and Administration's priorities and is consistent with Executive Order 13771, Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs, January 30, 2017.

**DATES:** December 14, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments by sending an email to Kimberly Graber ([kimberly.graber@dot.gov](mailto:kimberly.graber@dot.gov)) or Blane A. Workie ([blane.workie@dot.gov](mailto:blane.workie@dot.gov)). Please include RIN 2105-AE56 in the subject line of the message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberly Graber or Blane A. Workie, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20590, 202-366-9342 (phone), [kimberly.graber@dot.gov](mailto:kimberly.graber@dot.gov) or [blane.workie@dot.gov](mailto:blane.workie@dot.gov) (email).

**Electronic Access: Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents and comments received, go to the street address listed above or visit <http://www.regulations.gov>. Enter the docket number DOT-OST-2017-0007 in the search field.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 9, 2017, the Department issued an SNPRM that proposed to require air carriers, foreign air carriers, and ticket agents to clearly disclose to consumers at all points of sale customer-specific fee information, or itinerary-specific information if a customer elects not to provide customer-specific information, for a first checked bag, a second checked bag, and one carry-on bag wherever fare and schedule information is provided to consumers (see 82 FR 7536, Jan. 19, 2017). The SNPRM further proposed to require airlines to provide useable, current, and accurate (but not transactable) baggage fee information to all ticket agents that receive and distribute the airline's fare and schedule information, including Global Distribution Systems and metasearch entities. If an airline or ticket agent has a website that markets to U.S.

consumers, the SNPRM proposed to require the baggage fee information to be disclosed at the first point in a search process where a fare is listed in connection with a specific flight itinerary, adjacent to the fare. The SNPRM also proposed to permit airlines and ticket agents to allow customers to opt-out of receiving the baggage fee information when using their websites.

On March 2, 2017, the Department suspended the comment period, which had been scheduled to close on March 20, 2017. The suspension of the comment period was to allow the President's appointees the opportunity to review and consider this action. After a careful review, the Department has determined to withdraw the SNPRM. The Department is committed to protecting consumers from hidden fees and to ensuring transparency. However,

we do not believe that Departmental action is necessary to meet this objective at this time. The Department's existing regulations already provide consumers some information regarding fees for ancillary services. The withdrawal corresponds with the Department's and Administration's priorities and is consistent with the Executive Order 13771, Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs, January 30, 2017.

Issued on 5th day of December 2017 in Washington, DC.

**Elaine L. Chao,**

*Secretary of Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 2017-26707 Filed 12-13-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### 22 CFR Parts 50 and 51

[Public Notice 9804]

RIN 1400-AD54

#### Passports

**AGENCY:** Department of State.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed rule provides various changes and updates to the Department of State passport rules. The proposed rule incorporates statutory passport denial and revocation requirements for certain convicted sex offenders. It notes that, notwithstanding the legal bases for denial or revocation of a passport, the Department may issue a passport for direct return to the United States. It sets out the Department's procedures for denying and cancelling Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. Finally, the proposed rule provides additional information relating to the conduct of review hearings.

**DATES:** The Department will accept comments on the proposed regulation up to February 12, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Internet:* At [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), search for this notice by searching for Docket No. DOS-2016-0080 or RIN 1400-AD54.

- *By mail:* Director, Office of Legal Affairs and Law Enforcement Liaison, Passport Services, U.S. Department of State, 44132 Mercure Circle, P.O. Box 1227, Sterling, VA 20166-1227

- *By email:* Submit comments to: [PassportRules@state.gov](mailto:PassportRules@state.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anita Mody, Office of Legal Affairs, Passport Services, (202) 485-6500. Hearing- or speech-impaired persons