



DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
LOGISTICS AND MATERIEL READINESS

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Transportation of Service Animals on DoD-owned and Controlled Aircraft

Effective immediately, the attached guidance implements the provisions of 14 CFR Part 382, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel. DoD 4515.13-R, "Air Transportation Eligibility," Chapter C.1.6.1. is rescinded in its entirety.

This guidance will be incorporated in DoD 4515.13-R, "Air Transportation Eligibility," which is under revision. My point of contact is Lt Col Michael Holmes, OADUSD (TP), 703-601-4461, extension 109.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan F. Estevez", is positioned above the printed name.

Alan F. Estevez
Acting

Attachment:
As stated

Interim policy change for DoD 4515.13-R, "Air Transportation Eligibility" (November 1994) (through Change 3, April 9, 1998), to partially incorporate provisions of 14 CFR Part 382.117, as amended at 74 FR 11471, Mar 18, 2009.

C1.6.1 is rescinded in its entirety and replaced as follows:

C1.6.1. SERVICE ANIMALS

C1.6.1.1 A service animal is allowed to accompany a passenger with a disability within the cabin on DOD owned and controlled aircraft.

C1.6.1.1.1. Commercial aircraft chartered by DOD, or on behalf of DOD, may be subject to the provisions of 14 CFR, Part 382, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel, relating to service animals.

C1.6.1.1.2. Service animals may be accommodated on other DOD owned or controlled aircraft, subject to reasonable limitations required by the configuration of the aircraft and/or operational necessity.

C1.6.1.2. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Service animals are individually trained to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks.

C1.6.1.2.1. An animal's weight, size, State and foreign country restrictions may limit the transport of a service animal within the cabin and/or cargo hold.

C1.6.1.2.2. Certain unusual service animals pose unavoidable safety and/or public health concerns and are not required to be transported (e.g., snakes, other reptiles, ferrets, rodents, and spiders) as service animals.

C1.6.1.3. Transportation of a service animal in the cabin or cargo hold is authorized without charge when accompanying the passenger who is otherwise authorized transportation under this Regulation. DOD personnel will make every effort to ensure individuals with disabilities are not separated from their service animal.

C1.6.1.4. The service animal must be properly harnessed or leashed. To avoid creating a safety hazard, the service animal should not occupy the aisle. The service animal shall be permitted to accompany the passenger in all areas in which persons without disabilities are normally allowed to go. If a service animal cannot be accommodated at the seat location of the passenger with a disability, offer the passenger the opportunity to move with the animal to another seat location, if present on the aircraft, where the animal can be accommodated.

C1.6.1.5. Passengers will provided identification cards or other written documentation, issued by a bona fide agency, to verify the animal is trained as a service animal. Additional guidance to

assist transportation/terminal personnel in determining if an animal is a qualified service animal may be found on the Department of Transportation web site at <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/>.

C1.6.1.6. Emotional Support/Psychiatric Service Animals. Proper documentation is required for a passenger to travel with an animal that is used as an emotional support or psychiatric service animal. Letters may be no older than one year from the date of the passenger's scheduled initial flight on the letterhead of a licensed mental health professional (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed clinical social worker) stating the following:

C1.6.1.6.1. The passenger has a mental or emotional disability recognized in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders—Fourth Edition (DSM IV).

C1.6.1.6.2. The passenger needs the emotional support or psychiatric service animal as an accommodation for air travel and/or for activity at the passenger's destination.

C1.6.1.6.3. The individual providing the assessment is a licensed mental health professional and the passenger is under his or her professional care.

C1.6.1.6.4. The date and type of the mental health professional's license and the state or other jurisdiction in which it was issued.

C1.6.1.7. Proper sanitation is the responsibility of the passenger and must be maintained at all times. Terminal personnel are not required to provide care or food for a service animal or provide a special location for the animal to relieve itself.

C1.6.1.8. Transportation of service animals shall be subject to country quarantine procedures. Passengers intending to travel outside the CONUS with a service animal are required to check on possible restrictions with the embassy or consulate of each country to be visited. Specific information may be found on each country's Country Specific Information website at <http://travel.state.gov>. When it is necessary to detain the service animal pending determination of admissibility, the passenger shall provide detention facilities satisfactory to the cognizant quarantine officer. The passenger shall bear the expense of such detention, including necessary examinations and vaccinations, and other expenses incurred due to the service animal accompanying the passenger.

C1.6.1.9. A service animal may be removed from the premises if the animal is out of control and the owner does not take effective action to control the animal, or the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. Every effort should be made to mitigate the problem before excluding the animal from the terminal area or aircraft cabin.