

An Advisory by the National Association of Schools of Music on Federal Regulations Governing Air Travel with Musical Instruments

The Issue

On December 30, 2014, the Department of Transportation issued final regulations regarding the transport of musical instruments by U.S. commercial airlines. The [regulations](#), printed in Title 14, Part 251 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), serve to implement the requirements set forth in Section 403 of the *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* ([H.R. 658, 112th Congress](#)).

The federal regulations require all U.S.-based airlines to accept musical instruments as carry-on or checked baggage, provided certain conditions are met. The final rule went into effect on March 6, 2015.

Given the brevity of the regulations, NASM encourages all music executives to review them in full and to share information with their faculties, staff, and students.

In addition to the regulations, the Department of Transportation has created a set of [supplemental resources](#) on this topic.

Conclusion

NASM will continue to monitor this and related issues. Musicians are encouraged to review the law itself and these regulations and resources, as well as to verify information with airline carriers prior to airline travel. Guidance on the law, regulations, and resources should be sought directly from the staff of the U.S. Department of Transportation.