



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

An Organization of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada

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Canadian Federation of Musicians **Musical Instrument Carry-On Procedures** **Submission to the Canada Transportation Act Review, 2015**

Background

The Canadian Federation of Musicians [CFM] (formerly referred to as AFM Canada) is the Canadian division of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM). With a membership of 90,000 across North America, 17,000 of which are Canadian, the AFM/CFM is the leading professional organization of its kind available to musicians in North America, and is the official voice of professional musicians. The CFM headquarters oversees all matters of National importance to musicians and governs its 25 Local offices located coast to coast across Canada.

As the distinctly Canadian division of AFM, and under its Federal Status of the Artist recognition, the CFM negotiates fair agreements and working conditions covering all musical services within Canada. CFM diligently works to protect ownership of recorded music, secure benefits such as health care and pension for its membership, and actively lobbies on Copyright reform and other matters of interest to all professional musicians working and/or living in Canada.

Every year the Canadian Federation of Musicians helps thousands of musicians requiring assistance with a number of issues related to the performance and protection of their creative product. Issues vary from contract negotiation to travel and cross-border related assistance. The CFM has various departments covering an array services important to professional musicians - ranging from recordings to broadcast-media and insurance protection programs; as well as symphonic, theatrical, touring agreements and more. CFM educates its members and all professional musicians to optimize the level of their professional working environment at all stages of their career.

Musical Instrument Carry On Concern

On January 5, 2015 the United States Department of Transportation released a final rule to implement section 403 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 regarding the carriage of musical instrument as carry-on baggage or checked baggage on commercial passenger flights operation by air carriers. This rule responds to difficulties musicians have encountered when transporting their instruments during air travel.

The airlines are now required to train air crews, gate agents, counter agents, and baggage personnel concerning appropriate procedures necessary to comply with all FAA musical instrument transportation policies. The full ruling can be accessed at:

<http://www.dot.gov/airconsumer/final-rule-musical-instruments>.

The Canadian Federation of Musicians would like to harmonize this regulation in Canada to mirror the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 as soon as possible. This important initiative has been the result of extensive dialogue with musicians as well as representatives of airlines and industry associations to address the difficulties musicians face when traveling by air with musical instruments. The CFM is underway on these discussions in Canada. In that regard, we would like to see the following key points:

- Airlines are required to allow small musical instruments, such as a violin or guitar, to be carried into the cabin and stowed in approved stowage spaces, if available, and/or under the seat;
- Once safely stowed, airlines cannot require passengers to remove their instruments, even if space taken by their instrument could accommodate one or more other carry-on items;
- Airlines cannot charge an additional fee for instruments as carry-on or checked baggage other than any standard fee imposed by the carrier;
- Airlines are now required to train air crews, gate agents, counter agents and baggage personnel concerning appropriate procedures necessary to comply with all FAA musical instrument transportation policies.

Working together we believe that we can prevent or resolve difficulties encountered by musicians when flying while still ensuring the safety of passengers and crew. This harmonization with the United States would allow the 20,000 plus musicians across Canada better travel, enhanced outcomes, streamlined programs, better efficiencies and improve aviation safety and capacity.

The Canadian Federation of Musicians looks forward to your comments and would be pleased to discuss your concerns. Please contact Allistair Elliott for more information.



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