

Presidential TFR Reimbursements - Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. What is a Presidential Temporary Flight Restriction (PTFR)?

A PTFR is a restriction imposed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that limits or prohibits air traffic in designated areas during the movement or presence of the President of the United States for security purposes.

2. What are PTFR reimbursements?

PTFR reimbursements are financial compensation provided by the federal government to eligible airports and aviation-related businesses, as more fully described below, that incur direct and incremental financial losses due to Presidential TFRs.

3. What laws authorize PTFR reimbursements?

Current appropriations for reimbursements are authorized under:

- **Public Law 116-6**, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019.
- **Public Law 117-328**, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.
- **Public Law 118-42**, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.
- **Public Law 119-75**, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026.

4. What are Direct Financial Losses?

The immediate and measurable monetary damage resulting from Presidential Temporary Flight Restriction. It is tangible, quantifiable, and represents the actual profit lost.

The calculation of Direct Financial Losses involves determining the difference between the revenue that would have been generated under normal circumstances and the costs that were avoided because operations were reduced or stopped. The formula for calculating Direct Financial Loss is:

Direct Financial Loss = Lost Revenue – Avoided Costs

For example:

Example 1: Consider a flight school that cancels a flight due to a PTFR.

Cancellation means the termination of a previously scheduled service or operation that does not occur as planned due to a PTFR:

- **Lost Revenue: \$500 (The price the student would have paid)**
- **Avoided Costs: \$150 (Fuel not burned and instructor not paid)**

- **Direct Financial Loss: \$350 (The actual reduction to the bottom line)**

*If an instructor is paid despite the lesson being cancelled due to a PTFR, their wage would be reimbursable as it was an incurred direct cost.

Example 2: PTFR occurs on Friday January 16 through Sunday January 18 and causes the revenue that would normally have been earned to be lost. Compare the revenue earned on the same calendar days in the prior year under normal operating conditions to determine the direct financial loss. This example can be applied to any business type.

- Friday-Sunday January 17-19, 2025 is the most recent comparable date.
- 2025 Revenue: 20 hours x \$200/hr. (rental + instructor) = \$4,000
- 2025 Avoided Costs:
 - Fuel: 20 hours x \$50/hr. = \$1,000
 - Instructor Pay: 20 hours x \$30/hr. = \$600
 - Total Avoided Costs: \$1,600
- Direct Financial Loss: \$4,000 (Revenue) - \$1,600 (Avoided) = \$2,400

5. What are Incremental Financial Losses?

Incremental financial losses are additional expenses incurred solely due to a Presidential Temporary Flight Restriction.

For example: A flight school temporarily moves its aircraft to a different airport to continue conducting flight lessons outside of the TFR zone.

- Cost Incurred: \$500 (Temporary tie-down fees at the new airport) + \$100 (Ferry pilot fees) + \$100 (Ferry fuel).
- Incremental Financial Loss: \$700 (The extra cost solely attributable to the PTFR)

6. How does FAA calculate reimbursable losses during a PTFR?

FAA generally reimburses lost adjusted gross profit, not total revenue. This means FAA looks at lost revenue and subtracts any direct costs that were not incurred because operations did not occur during the PTFR.

7. Why are indirect costs generally not reimbursed?

Businesses typically have ongoing indirect or fixed costs such as rent, office staff, insurance, and utilities. These costs usually continue during a PTFR and are not deducted when calculating adjusted gross profit.

In a normal scenario, indirect costs reduce net profit. However, if a business does not pay certain indirect costs during a PTFR, net profit may increase compared to normal operations.

If a claimant reduces or eliminates indirect costs because of a PTFR, FAA may need additional review to ensure reimbursement does not exceed actual economic loss.

8. Is rent abatement eligible for reimbursement under the PTFR Program?

No. Rent abatement is a contractual adjustment authorized under a lease agreement and represents forgone or reduced revenue, not a direct or incremental financial loss caused by a Presidential Temporary Flight Restriction (PTFR). Because no costs were incurred and no operational loss occurred, rent abatement does not meet PTFR reimbursement eligibility requirements. This approach is consistent with Federal grants management principles in 2 CFR part 200, which recognize reimbursement only for costs or losses actually incurred.

9. Why does forgone rent not qualify as a reimbursable PTFR loss?

PTFR reimbursement is limited to actual, direct financial losses resulting from PTFR impacts. Rent abatement reflects a discretionary, lease-based pricing decision rather than a loss incurred due to interrupted operations. As such, it is treated as unearned or reduced revenue, not a reimbursable loss under the PTFR statute. Consistent with 2 CFR §§ 200.403–200.405, reduced or forgone revenue does not constitute an incurred, allocable cost.

Eligibility

10. What entities are eligible to receive PTFR reimbursement?

Entities that may be eligible for reimbursement include those that can demonstrate direct, documented financial losses attributable to PTFR-related operational restrictions. Potentially eligible entities may include:

- Public-use airports
- Private-use airports, where directly impacted by PTFR restrictions
- Fixed Base Operators (FBOs)
- Airport tenants (e.g., flight schools, maintenance shops, balloon operators, skydiving operators)
- Independent flight instructors, where compensation losses can be documented and are directly attributable to PTFR restrictions
- Other aviation-related businesses directly impacted by the PTFR (e.g., Aerial applicators, aerial advertising).

11. What criteria determine eligibility?

Claims are eligible if:

- Operate within a defined PTFR area
- Demonstrate direct or incremental financial impacts during a PTFR event
- Submit appropriate documentation supporting the loss or cost incurred or a reasonable methodology, which is subject to FAA audit

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- Demonstrate that they were not themselves or the associated airport authorized to provide gateway operations (A gateway airport is one that the U.S. Transportation Security Administration defines and the FAA's Air Traffic Organization designates on the applicable Notice to Airmen [NOTAM] identifying the PTFR).
- Claims on cancelled services are reimbursed based on gross profit - revenues net of direct expenses (i.e. Cost of goods sold); claims for unsold inventory are reimbursed based on loss profit margin
- Fixed expense claims would not be reimbursed as we were reimbursing revenue. Reimbursing both would double count

12. Are only businesses located near Mar-a-Lago or Bedminster eligible?

No, coverage is applied to any residence of the President that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service".

13. Can airport business contact FAA to inquire about their ability to seek reimbursement?

Yes. Visit the [FAA Presidential Temporary Flight Restriction Reimbursement](#) webpage for contact information.

Reimbursement Process

14. How can I submit a claim for a PTFR reimbursement?

Entities affected by Presidential TFRs during the covered period and seeking potential reimbursement may submit a request to the FAA, Office of Airports.

Each request should include the following:

1. Claimant [entity] Name, Address, point of contact name, phone, and email address.
2. A brief description of the claimant's business,
3. List of the dates, times of the PTFR that impacted business operations,
4. Indicate a brief description of the operations that were lost due to each PTFR,
5. Any supporting documentation of the losses (see below)

FAA staff will contact each claimant to schedule an interview. Each claim is subject to a preliminary review and independent audit. Once reconciled, eligible losses will be offered to the claimant for reimbursement.

Typically claims can be processed, including the review and independent audit, on a quarterly basis. However, workload and the accuracy of submissions can impact the total time to final reimbursement.

15. Is there a deadline to submit a reimbursement request?

Yes. Deadlines are communicated via GovDelivery to eligible claimants. Timely submission is critical for consideration.

16. What documents are required with my application?

Required documentation typically includes:

- Proof of business location within the PTFR at an eligible airport
- Financial records demonstrating pre- and post-PTFR activity
- Direct (labor) cost data
- Invoices or receipts for cost of goods/services sold and additional incremental costs
- Data showing customer or sales losses due to the PTFR:
 - supporting information on canceled reservations and days and time for these
 - a comparison for revenue changes over an equitable time period
- Price lists of services provided and products sold

Documentation & Proof of Loss

17. What is the purpose of supporting documentation?

Supporting documentation is used to: (1) verify the business operated during the PTFR period, (2) confirm the type of revenue normally generated, and (3) demonstrate the loss occurred only during PTFR-affected times. Documentation helps FAA determine whether claimed losses are direct, attributable to the PTFR and reasonably supported.

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18. What format works best to submit supporting documentation?

Supporting documentation should be submitted in a structured and auditable format. The FAA strongly encourages claimants to provide an Excel-based version of their financial calculations, in addition to any supporting source documents (e.g., invoices, logs, reservation systems).

Excel submissions should:

- Clearly identify data sources and assumptions
- Include formulas used to calculate losses
- Separate PTFR-affected periods from non-PTFR periods
- Allow FAA reviewers to trace calculations from source data to final claim amounts

Providing an Excel-based version improves transparency, reduces review time, and supports efficient audit validation.

19. What documentation is required to support tie-down revenue losses?

Tie-down revenue claims must be supported by documentation that demonstrates direct impact during PTFR-affected periods.

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Acceptable documentation may include:

- Cancellation records showing:
 - Reservation date (must pre-date PTFR issuance)
 - Scheduled usage date/time
 - Confirmation that the cancellation was due to the PTFR
- Reservation logs or booking systems identifying lost transient usage

If cancellation records are NOT available:

Claimants may use a comparable prior-period revenue methodology, subject to the following requirements:

- The comparison must reflect the same type of activity and time period as the PTFR affected days
- The comparison must be based on:
 - Same days of the week (e.g., Friday-Sunday PTFR – compare to prior year Friday – Sunday)
 - Comparable operational conditions
- Monthly or aggregated revenue totals (e.g., end of month summaries) are not sufficient on their own, as they do not isolate PTFR-specific impacts.

Revenue associated with a specific customer that:

- Is not tied to the same time period as the PTFR, or
- Reflects general monthly performance rather than PTFR-day activity,
- Will not be considered comparable for purposes of calculating direct financial loss.

20. How long does the reimbursement process take?

This is largely influenced by the accuracy and completeness of the claim when submitted. Additional processing time is often the result of missing or inconclusive documentation. The FAA will not obligate or disburse reimbursement funds until an audit is completed.

21. Can a claimant be reimbursed if it cancels or elects not to accept reservations or conduct business based on the anticipation of a PTFR?

No. Any claims made based on prediction or forecasts of a PTFR(s) are not sufficient to support a claim.

Funding and Payments

22. Is there a limit on how much a claimant can receive?

Yes, reimbursement amounts are **subject to availability of appropriated funds** and an independent FAA audit and determined based on the scale of loss or cost incurred, as verified by the FAA.

23. Will the claimant receive the full amount it request?

Not necessarily. The FAA will evaluate and validate all claims may adjust payment based on eligibility, documentation, audit, and available funding.

24. Are PTFR reimbursements considered taxable income?

Claimants are encouraged to consult a tax professional.

Program Oversight and Administration

25. Which FAA Office administers the PTFR reimbursement program?

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Airports, manages the program.

26. Are PTFR reimbursements recurring or one-time payments?

Reimbursement payments are provided in a lump sum per each claim or group of claims.

27. Where can claimants get more information or assistance?

Claimants can contact the FAA Office of Airports or visit faa.gov for program updates, application instructions, and contact information.

28. How is my financial and business information protected when submitting a claim under the Presidential Temporary Flight Restriction Reimbursement (PTFR) Act?

Financial and business information is safeguarded by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Exemption 4. This exemption specifically protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." Essentially, this means that any sensitive financial data or proprietary business details you provide in your claim will be shielded from public disclosure, ensuring that your competitive standing is not compromised. The FAA will take appropriate measures to maintain the confidentiality of your information, in compliance with federal regulations and policies designed to protect business interests.

29. Is the information I provide to the Federal government available to public use? No.

Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential. Find more information about the FOIA exemption 4 at [eCFR :: 32 CFR 1662.21 -- The FOIA Exemption 4: Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information.](#)