

[4910-13]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Submission Deadline for Schedule Information for Chicago O'Hare International Airport, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport, and San Francisco International Airport for the Summer 2026 Scheduling Season

AGENCY: Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

ACTION: Notice of submission deadline.

SUMMARY: Under this notice, the FAA announces the submission deadline of October 9, 2025, for Summer 2026 flight schedules at Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), and San Francisco International Airport (SFO).

DATES: Schedules should be submitted by October 9, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Schedules may be submitted to the Slot Administration Office by e-mail to: 7-AWA-slotadmin@faa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Meilus, Manager, Slot Administration and Capacity Analysis, AJR-G, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-2822; e-mail Al.Meilus@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides routine notice to carriers serving capacity-constrained airports in the United States, including ORD, JFK, LAX, EWR, and SFO. In particular, this notice announces the deadline for carriers to submit schedules for the Summer 2026 scheduling season.

General Information for All Airports

The FAA has designated JFK as an IATA Level 3 airport consistent with the Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines (WASG).¹ The FAA currently limits scheduled operations at JFK by Order that expires on October 24, 2026.²

The FAA has designated EWR, LAX, ORD, and SFO as IATA Level 2 airports³ subject to a schedule review process premised upon voluntary cooperation. The Summer 2026 scheduling season is from March 29, 2026, through October 25, 2026, in recognition of the IATA Summer scheduling period.

The FAA is primarily concerned about scheduled and other regularly conducted commercial operations during designated hours, but carriers may submit schedule plans for the entire day. The designated hours for the Summer 2026 scheduling season are as follows:

- For EWR and JFK, from 0600 to 2300 Eastern Time (1000 to 0300 UTC);
- For LAX and SFO, from 0600 to 2300 Pacific Time (1300 to 0600 UTC); and
- For ORD, from 0600 to 2100 Central Time (1100 to 0200 UTC).

These hours are unchanged from previous scheduling seasons.

Carriers should submit schedule information in sufficient detail including, at minimum, the marketing or operating carrier, flight number, scheduled time of operation, frequency, aircraft equipment, and effective dates. IATA standard schedule information format and data elements

¹ The currently effective version of the WASG is edition 4, effective August 1, 2025. However, despite several updates to the guidelines, the FAA generally applies its predecessor, the Worldwide Slot Guidelines (WSG), edition 9, to the extent there is no conflict with U.S. law or regulation. The WASG is published jointly by Airports Council International-World, IATA, and the Worldwide Airport Coordinators Group (WWACG). To avoid confusion, the guidelines will be referred to generally as “WASG” throughout this document.

² Operating Limitations at John F. Kennedy International Airport, 73 FR 3510 (Jan. 18, 2008), as most recently extended 89 FR 41486 (May 13, 2024). The slot coordination parameters for JFK are set forth in this Order.

³ These designations remain effective until the FAA announces a change in the Federal Register.

for communications at Level 2 and Level 3 airports in the IATA Standard Schedules Information Manual (SSIM) Chapter 6 may be used. The WASG provides additional information on schedule submissions at Level 2 and Level 3 airports. Some carriers at JFK manage and track slots through FAA-assigned Slot ID numbers corresponding to an arrival or departure slot in a particular half-hour on a particular day of the week and date. The FAA has a similar voluntary process for tracking schedules at EWR with Reference IDs, and certain carriers are managing their schedules accordingly. The primary users of IDs are U.S. and Canadian carriers that have the highest frequencies and considerable schedule changes throughout the season, and can benefit from a simplified exchange of information not dependent on full flight details. Carriers are encouraged to submit schedule requests at those airports using Slot or Reference IDs.

As stated in the WASG, schedule facilitation at a Level 2 airport is based on the following: (1) Schedule adjustments are mutually agreed upon between the carriers and the facilitator; (2) the intent is to avoid exceeding the airport's coordination parameters; (3) the concepts of historic precedence and series of slots do not apply at Level 2 airports, although WASG recommends giving priority to approved services that plan to operate unchanged from the previous equivalent season at Level 2 airports; and (4) the facilitator should adjust the smallest number of flights by the least amount of time necessary to avoid exceeding the airport's coordination parameters. Consistent with the WASG, the success of Level 2 in the United States depends on the voluntary cooperation of carriers.

The FAA considers several factors and priorities that are consistent with the WASG as it reviews schedule and slot requests at Level 2 and Level 3 airports, including (1) historic slots or services from the previous equivalent season over new demand for the same timings; (2) services

that are unchanged over services that plan to change time or other capacity relevant parameters; (3) introduction of year-round services; (4) effective period of operation; (5) regularly planned operations over *ad hoc* operations; and (6) other operational factors that may limit a carrier's timing flexibility.

The FAA seeks to maintain close communications with carriers and terminal schedule facilitators on potential runway schedule issues or terminal and gate issues that may affect the runway times. In addition to applying these priorities from the WASG, the U.S. Government has adopted a few measures and procedures to promote competition and new entry at U.S. slot-controlled and schedule-facilitated airports.

Slot management in the United States differs in some respects from procedures in other countries. In the United States, the FAA is responsible for facilitation and coordination of runway access for takeoffs and landings at Level 2 and Level 3 airports; however, the airport authority or its designee is responsible for facilitation and coordination of terminal/gate/airport facility access. The process with the individual airports for terminal access and other airport services is separate from, and in addition to, the FAA schedule review based on runway capacity.

Generally, the FAA uses average hourly runway capacity throughput for airports and performance metrics in conducting its schedule review at Level 2 airports and determining the scheduling limits at Level 3 airports included in FAA rules or orders.⁴ The FAA also considers other factors that can affect operations, such as capacity changes due to runway, taxiway, or

⁴ The FAA typically determines an airport's average adjusted runway capacity or typical throughput for Level 2 airports by reviewing hourly data on the arrival and departure rates that air traffic control indicates could be accepted for that hour, commonly known as "called" rates. The FAA also reviews the actual number of arrivals and departures that operated in the same hour. Generally, the FAA uses the higher of the two numbers, called or actual, for identifying trends and schedule review purposes. Some dates are excluded from analysis, such as during periods when extended airport closures or construction could affect capacity.

other airport construction, air traffic control procedural changes, airport surface operations, and historical or projected flight delays and congestion.

Finally, the FAA notes that the schedule information submitted by carriers to the FAA may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The WASG also provides for release of information at certain stages of slot coordination and schedule facilitation. In general, once it acts on a schedule submission or slot request, the FAA may release information on slot allocation or similar slot transactions, or schedule information reviewed as part of the schedule facilitation process. The FAA does not expect that practice to change, and most slot and schedule information would not be exempt from release under FOIA. The FAA recognizes that some carriers may submit information on schedule plans that are both customarily and actually treated as private. Carriers that submit such confidential schedule information should clearly mark the information, or any relevant portions thereof, as proprietary information (“PROPIN”). The FAA will take the necessary steps to protect properly designated information to the extent allowable by law.

EWR General Information

On May 14-16, 2025, the FAA held delay reduction meetings with air carriers and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in Washington, D.C. in order to address a period of elevated delays and operational disruption at EWR. These delays and operational disruptions were caused by air traffic controller staffing challenges, construction, congestion, and telecommunication issues. A Final Order (“June 2025 Order”) was issued on June 10, 2025, limiting operations at EWR at two separate rates depending on the date of the operation. The Order established two timeframes defined as the “construction period,” which is between the

issuance of the Interim Order,⁵ May 20, 2025, to June 15, 2025, and on weekends from September 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, from Friday at 11 p.m. through 5 a.m. on Sunday, Eastern Time, and outside of the construction period covering the dates not included in the construction period through the end of the Summer 2025 scheduling season. During the construction period, the targeted limit is no more than 28 arrivals and 28 departures per hour. Outside of the construction period, until the close of the Summer 2025 scheduling season, October 25, 2025, the limit is no more than 34 arrivals and 34 departures per hour.

Since the June 2025 Order, the telecommunications issues have improved, and the daily construction period has ended. However, the FAA determined that the staffing challenges remain such that an operating limitations order is necessary through the end of the Summer 2026 scheduling season.

On September 29, 2025, the FAA issued an extension of the June 2025 Order and increased the hourly operating limitations from 68 to 72.⁶ Through the end of the Summer 2026 scheduling season, the maximum number of scheduled operations per hour is 72. The FAA does not intend to approve requests for new flights unless they can be accommodated within the limits.

⁵ See Operating Limitations at Newark Liberty International Airport, Interim Order Establishing Targeted Scheduling Limits, 90 FR 22147 (May 23, 2025).

⁶ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/29/2025-18871/operating-limitations-at-newark-liberty-international-airport>

Carriers are reminded that FAA approval for runway access is separate from the approval process for gates or other airport infrastructure and both are essential for success at EWR. The FAA expects that all carriers operating at EWR will respect the scheduling limits and work cooperatively with the FAA in order to avoid unacceptable delays and other adverse operational impacts at the airport.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 3, 2025.

LaKisha A. Price
Acting Vice President,
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