



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

Our Ref: C2006/1881  
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13 October 2006

«Name»

Dear «Salutation»

### **International Air Transport Association – Passenger Agency Program Application for Minor Variation to Authorisation A90791**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for minor variation to authorisation A90791 from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

#### **Background**

Authorisation A90791 was granted by the ACCC on 13 November 2002 and concerns the IATA Passenger Agency Program (IPAP). The IPAP provides a system for the sale and distribution of air transport through travel agencies. The IPAP is embodied mainly in resolutions passed by IATA airline members at IATA Passenger Agency Conferences. The program has three core elements: an accreditation scheme which enables licensed agents to sell tickets on behalf of airlines, a process of appointing agents to represent airlines, and a system for managing the reporting and payment of ticket sales.

The *Trade Practices Act 1974* (the Act) allows a party to an existing authorisation to apply for a minor variation to that authorisation. Before the ACCC can progress an application for minor variation, it must be satisfied that the variation is in fact minor and does not involve a material change in the effect of the authorisation.

The ACCC may only make a minor variation to an existing authorisation if it is satisfied that, in all the circumstances, the variation would not result, or would be likely not to result, in a reduction in the extent to which the benefit to the public of the authorisation outweighs any detriment to the public caused by the authorisation.

In assessing the likely impact of an application for minor variation on the existing overall benefit to the public of an authorisation, the ACCC undertakes a public consultation process seeking comments on the application from interested parties. Following the consultation process, the ACCC issues a final decision. No draft decision is issued in response to a minor variation application.



## **IATA's Application for minor variation**

IATA's application relates to changes to the Passenger Agency Program in Australia adopted by IATA's members at the meeting of the IATA Passenger Agency Conference in June 2006.

A copy of the application is attached.

### **Your views are sought**

To assist the ACCC in its consideration of IATA's application you are invited to make a written submission to the ACCC regarding the likely public benefits and detriments of the proposed variations to authorisation A90791.

The ACCC asks for submissions to be in writing so they can be made publicly available. Submissions are placed on a public register and may be also placed on the ACCC's website.

Should you lodge a submission with the ACCC you may request that information included in the submission not be placed on the ACCC's Public Register. Information excluded from the Public Register will still be considered by the ACCC when reaching its decision. Relevant guidelines are attached for your information.

Submissions should reach the ACCC by close of business **Wednesday 1 November 2006** at the following address:

The General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
DICKSON ACT 2602

Submissions can also be lodged by e-mail to [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au) or faxed on (02) 6243 1211.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6243 1049.

Yours sincerely



Isabelle Arnaud  
Director, Adjudication

Aerolineas Argentinas
Aircalin
Air Canada
Air China
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Air Nauru
Air New Zealand
Air Niugini (Australia)
Air Pacific Ltd
Manager (Australia)
Asiana Airlines
British Airways
Cathay Pacific Airways
Continental Micronesia
China Airlines
China Eastern Airlines
China Southern Airlines
Emirates
Eva Air
Garuda Indonesia
Gulf Air, Level 12
Japan Airlines Ltd
Korean Air
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

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Qantas Airways Ltd
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United Airlines
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Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd
Flight Centre
Harvey World Travel
Concorde International Travel
American Express International Inc.
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Australian Federation of Travel Agents

Australasian Business Travel Association
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Travel Agency Commissioner
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Group Event Travel Sydney
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