

June 2, 2015

**TO: REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS  
BRANCHES & FACILITIES**

**Arbitrator Agrees With CATCA on Business Class Upgrades for FAM Flights**

The Travel Guidelines call for flights to be upgraded to business class where “continuous air travel” exceeds 12 hours “from scheduled departure to scheduled arrival”.

When a Vancouver ACC controller booked a FAM flight to Paris last November, he expected to be booked in business class both ways. NAV Canada upgraded his return, but not the outbound portion – because they said that although total departure-to-arrival travel time would be 14 hours 35 minutes, the actual flying time would only be 11 hours 20 minutes – and in their view, “continuous air travel” meant time inside the aircraft only. CATCA disagreed and stated our position that “continuous air travel” meant the total time from departure to arrival for a continuous journey that did not include an overnight stopover. The controller decided to pay for his own upgrade and filed a grievance.

The dispute was heard on April 16 by Arbitrator JFW Weatherill. Abe Rosner presented for CATCA. In Arbitrator Weatherill’s decision, issued May 31, he found that the Union’s interpretation of “continuous air travel” as meaning total time from departure to destination (except in the case of an overnight stopover) was the correct one. He ordered the Company to reimburse the grievor for the upgrade.

This will set policy that any FAM trip exceeding 12 hours total travel time without an overnight stopover will require a business class upgrade.

In Solidarity;

Peter Duffey  
President

Doug Best  
Executive Vice President