

Charter Service Final Rule-Fact Sheet

Effective Date of Final Rule: 4/30/08

73 FR 2326

- **New exemptions for:**
 - Transit systems transporting transit employees
 - Private charter operators receiving federal funds
 - Public transit agencies receiving funds under 5310, 5311, 5316, & 5317
 - Emergency response and preparedness
 - Recipients in non-urbanized areas transporting employees for training
- **New definition of charter service:**
 - Third party involved: charter
 - For irregular or events of limited duration: charter if third party pays or transit agency charges premium fare
- **Exceptions:**
 - Government Officials (80 hours annually)
 - Qualified Human Service Organizations (QHSO) (qualified groups serving elderly, disabled, and low income)
 - Leasing
 - Agreement with other private operators
 - When no registered charter provider responds to a notice sent by recipient
 - Petitions to the Administrator:
 - Special Events
 - Hardship
 - Discretion
- **Reporting:**
 - Done on a quarterly basis starting 7/30/08
 - Submitted through TEAM
 - Required for all charter service performed
 - Dockets established for Government Officials, Petitions to the Administrator, Advisory Opinions/Cease and Desist Orders, Complaints for Removal, Complaints, and Hearings. Check www.regulations.gov.
- New FTA Registration Website, web address, takes the place of “willing and able” paper process.
- Private operators and some QHSOs must register. Can be removed from website for cause.
- Formal advisory opinions now available as well as cease and desist orders.
- Complaints have clear procedures and deadlines for industry and FTA.
- Hearings can be held before a neutral arbiter (Presiding Official).
- Assessment of remedy based on several criteria and there is a list of possible monetary assessments in Appendix D.
- Help available on website: and in Appendix C, which contains an extensive list of Questions and Answers.
- FTA created new position to assist with new rule requirements. The Ombudsman for Charter Service can be contacted at:

ombudsman.charterservice@dot.gov

Fact sheet provided for summary purposes only.
Please consult regulatory text for exact requirements.