

1. INTRODUCTION

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which came into force on January 1, 1994, contains provisions aimed at liberalizing specialty air services. The Canadian specialty air services industry has world class technology and capabilities and is poised to take advantage of the newly opened markets in the U.S. and Mexico. In order to assist Canadian industry, the Services Industries and Transportation Division (TPS) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has prepared this guide. It describes the basic provisions of the NAFTA that affect specialty air services and includes information on legal and administrative procedures that will be faced by Canadian providers attempting to access the U.S. and Mexican markets.

In addition, there are a number of Departmental and Governmental initiatives and programs aimed at helping Canadian services companies succeed in international markets. These are available either to individual companies or through industry associations. For more information about these government programs, please contact: Ms. Doreen Conrad, Services Industries and Transportation Division (TPS) at (613) 992-0484 or fax: (613) 996-1225 or the International Trade Centre nearest you.

The provisions of the NAFTA which liberalize specialty air services require fundamental changes to administrative procedures in place in each country. New manuals and forms are being developed in order to deal with the opening of markets and the anticipated increase in cross-border trade. The information contained in this guide will be amended when necessary to reflect these changes. However, at date of publication, the information contained herein is the most accurate available. The Department requests the assistance of Canadian industry in our continuing efforts to identify administrative procedures encountered when accessing U.S. and Mexican markets.

The information contained in this guide is to be used as a source of information, and does not constitute legal advice. It is recommended that legal or other professional advice (e.g. customs brokers, freight forwarders, trading houses, consultants, etc.) should be obtained in order to ensure compliance with domestic and foreign law. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade assumes no responsibility for damages or loss resulting from reliance on the information contained in this guide.