



What Air Charter Operators Need to Know About Illegal Charter

Risks of Illegal Charter

- Illegal charter operations distort the market for legitimate air charter operators by evading the high regulatory compliance costs of legal air charter operations, including proper training and insurance.
- Illegal charter operators expose the legitimate charter industry to reputational risks when they fail to abide by the stricter requirements of an air charter operator, resulting in accidents or enforcement which often lead to negative media coverage, impacting the entire air charter industry.
- Illegal charter operators also distract FAA attention and resources from the needs of legitimate charter operators.

Signs of Illegal Charter

Legitimate air charter operators are in a unique position to identify competing illegal charter operations. Here are some red flags that should raise your suspicions:

1. A prospective aircraft owner-client says that his/her alternative to your legitimate charter company is an organization that promises to help him/her dry lease or timeshare his aircraft to save on pilot training costs.
2. A prospective charter passenger says he/she can get a better deal from another organization if he/she just signs a separate agreement with the pilots and pays them directly.
3. A competing company promises a prospective passenger they will save money, claiming no Federal Excise Tax is due on their charter flights.

While these scenarios are not definitive examples of illegal charter, they should raise some suspicions.

What You Can Do About It

- Educate your aircraft owners and customers and potential clients about the risks posed by illegal charter schemes.
- Report suspected illegal charter operations to the Air Charter Safety Foundation's (ACSF's) Illegal Charter Hotline at 888-759-3581.
- Assist FAA inspectors in investigating illegal charter operations by answering questions truthfully and providing any documentation related to suspicious interactions.