

Department of Transportation  
Research and Innovative Technology Administration  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
Office of Airline Information  
Accounting and Reporting Directive

No. 303

Issue Date: June 10, 2011

Effective Date: August 23, 2011

### **Part 244 – Reporting of Tarmac Delay Data**

Reporting Air Carriers are all U.S and foreign air carriers that operate to a U.S. non-hub, small hub, medium hub, or large hub airport with at least one aircraft having an original manufacturer's design capacity of 30 seats or more. **All carriers will submit the initial Part 244 covering the period from August 23, 2011 through September 30, 2011. After the initial report, carriers will not be required to submit reports for the months where no 3-hour tarmac times occurred.**

1. **U.S. air carriers that submit Airline Service Quality Performance Reports** must now submit a secondary report under Part 244 for any charter passenger flight or any international passenger flight that is on the tarmac at any U.S. large hub airport, medium hub airport, small hub airport or non-hub airport for 3 or more hours if the passengers were not provided an opportunity to deplane. Tarmac delays experienced at foreign airports are not reported. Also, flights that are reported under the requirements of Part 234 Airline Service Quality Performance Reports are not reported under Part 244.

2. **Commuter air carriers** that operate at least one aircraft having an original manufacturer's design capacity of 30 seats or more must report tarmac delay data for all passenger operations that experience a tarmac time of 3 hours or more at a U.S. airport. Tarmac delays experienced at foreign airports are not reported.

3. **Certificated air carriers** that do not submit Airline Service Quality Performance Reports and operate at least one aircraft having an original manufacturer's design capacity of 30 seats or more must report tarmac delay data for all passenger operations that experience a tarmac time of 3 hours or more at a U.S. airport. Tarmac delays experienced at foreign airports are not reported.

4. **Foreign air carriers** that operate at least one aircraft having an original manufacturer's design capacity of 30 seats or more must report tarmac delay data for all passenger operations that experience a tarmac time of 3 hours or more at a U.S. airport. Tarmac delays experienced at foreign airports are not reported. Also, **charter flights are not subject to this rule when the foreign air carrier operates from a foreign airport to a U.S. airport and returns to a foreign airport, if the carrier did not enplane any new passengers in the United States.**

## Reporting Frequency

With the exception of the initial report, Part 244 data submissions are based on **calendar months**; and the reports are due 15 days after the end of the calendar month. Due dates falling on Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays are automatically extended to the next federal work day. After the initial report, **which all carriers must submit**, carriers **will only be required to submit reports** for the months where 3-hour tarmac times occurred.

The initial report will cover the reporting period from August 23 through September 30, 2011; and will be due on October 17, 2011, as October 15 falls on a Saturday.

## Record Format:

The **Tarmac Delay Data** reports must be created as an electronic “comma separated values” file, using ASCII text character encoding, for uploading via the “eSubmit” application.

The comma separated values file **MUST BE** indicated when naming the file, by using the letters [CSV] or [csv] following the file name, as the file name extension.

The file name is flexible and may be determined by the individual air carrier, but the comma separated values (csv) file format is required, as outlined in the rule entitled, *Submitting Airline Data via the Internet*.

The fields in the sample record shown below follow the same order as the above record description, separated by commas, and saved with the file name extension of .csv.

Suggested file name: XX201003-244Tarmac.csv

**The web address for data submission is <http://esubmit.rita.dot.gov>**

Please contact Marianne Seguin at [marianne.seguin@dot.gov](mailto:marianne.seguin@dot.gov) to set up your carrier’s account for reporting Part 244 data. This account should be established by August 26, 2011.

## Definitions:

1. 'Gate arrival time' is the instance when the pilot sets the aircraft parking brake after arriving at the airport gate or passenger unloading area. If the parking brake is not set, record the time for the opening of the passenger door. Also, carriers using a Docking Guidance System (DGS) may record the official “gate-arrival time” when the aircraft is stopped at the appropriate parking mark.
2. 'Gate departure time' is the instance when the pilot releases the aircraft parking brake after passengers have loaded and aircraft doors have been closed. In cases where the flight returned to

the departure gate before wheels-off time and departed a second time, report the last gate departure time before wheels-off time. In cases of an air return, report the last gate departure time before the gate return. If passengers were boarded without the parking brake being set, record the time that the passenger door was closed. Also, carriers using a DGS may record the official “gate-departure time” based on aircraft movement. For example, DGS records gate departure time when the aircraft moves more than 1 meter from the appropriate parking mark within 15 seconds. Fifteen seconds is then subtracted from the recorded time to obtain the appropriate out time.

3. “Gate Return” is when an aircraft leaves the boarding gate only to return to a gate for the purpose of allowing passengers to de-board the aircraft.
4. “Time”- all times are reported in local time using a 24 hour clock; e.g. 3:15 p.m. will be 1515, **midnight is 2400, and one minute after midnight is 0001.**

This action is taken under authority delegated by 14 CFR 385.19(b).

See below for reporting examples.



Anne Suissa  
Director  
Office of Airline Information

**Reporting Example: A flight with a 308 minute taxi-out time:**

**RECORD DESCRIPTION: Part 244 - Tarmac Delay Data**

	<b>Field Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Sample Data</b>
1	Carrier Code		ZZ
2	Flight Number		1234
3	Departure Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	DFW
4	Arrival Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	BNA
5	Date of Operation	Year/Month/Day (8 Digit)	20110823
6	Gate Departure Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	0737
7	Wheels-Off Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1245
8	Wheels-On Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1410
9	Gate Arrival Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1417
10	Aircraft Tail Number		N736ZZ
11	Total Ground Time Away From Gate for Gate Returns/Fly Returns including Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
12	Longest Time Away from Gate for Gate Returns or Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
13	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	
14	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
15	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
16	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
17	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
18	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	
19	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
20	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
21	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
22	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	

Items 13 through 17 are for diverted flights; and items 18 through 22 are for reporting a second diverted flight segment. If there are no diversions use., to identify nil fields

**Sample Record Format:**

**ZZ,1234,DFW,BNA,20110823,0737,1245,1410,1417,N736ZZ,,,,,,,,,,,,,**

**Reporting Example: Flight was on the tarmac for 201 minutes then returned to the gate to allow passengers to deplane and then after another hour re-departed.**

**RECORD DESCRIPTION: Part 244 - Tarmac Delay Data**

	<b>Field Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Sample Data</b>
1	Carrier Code		ZZ
2	Flight Number		1234
3	Departure Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	DFW
4	Arrival Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	BNA
5	Date of Operation	Year/Month/Day (8 Digit)	20110823
6	Gate Departure Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1230
7	Wheels-Off Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1245
8	Wheels-On Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1410
9	Gate Arrival Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1417
10	Aircraft Tail Number		N736ZZ
11	Total Ground Time Away From Gate for Gate Returns/Fly Returns including Canceled Flights	In Minutes	201
12	Longest Time Away from Gate for Gate Returns or Canceled Flights	In Minutes	201
13	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	
14	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
15	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
16	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
17	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
18	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	
19	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
20	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
21	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
22	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	

Items 13 through 17 are for diverted flights; and items 18 through 22 are for reporting a second diverted flight segment. If there are no diversions use,, to identify nil fields

**Sample Record Format:**

**ZZ,1234,DFW,BNA,20110823,1230,1245,1410,1417,N736ZZ,201,201,,,,,,,,,**

**Note:** In this case, the flight returned to the departure gate before wheels-off time and departed a second time, therefore, you must report the last gate departure time which is before wheels-off time .

## Reporting Example

**Flight diverted to an alternate airport and spent 185 minutes on the tarmac.**

### RECORD DESCRIPTION: Part 244 - Tarmac Delay Data

	Field Description	Comments	Sample Data
1	Carrier Code		ZZ
2	Flight Number		1234
3	Departure Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	DFW
4	Arrival Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	BNA
5	Date of Operation	Year/Month/Day (8 Digit)	20110823
6	Gate Departure Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	0737
7	Wheels-Off Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	0757
8	Wheels-On Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1306
9	Gate Arrival Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1317
10	Aircraft Tail Number		N736ZZ
11	Total Ground Time Away From Gate for Gate Returns/Fly Returns including Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
12	Longest Time Away from Gate for Gate Returns or Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
13	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	MEM
14	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	0914
15	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	185
16	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	185
17	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1219
18	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	
19	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
20	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
21	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
22	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	

### Sample Record Format:

ZZ,1234,DFW,BNA,20110823,0737,0757,1306,1317,N736ZZ,,,MEM,0914,185,185,1219,,,,,

## Reporting Example

### Flight experiencing two diversions

#### RECORD DESCRIPTION: Part 244 - Tarmac Delay Data

	Field Description	Comments	Sample Data
1	Carrier Code		ZZ
2	Flight Number		1234
3	Departure Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	DFW
4	Arrival Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	BNA
5	Date of Operation	Year/Month/Day (8 Digit)	20110823
6	Gate Departure Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	0737
7	Wheels-Off Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	0757
8	Wheels-On Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1650
9	Gate Arrival Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1657
10	Aircraft Tail Number		N736ZZ
11	Total Ground Time Away From Gate for Gate Returns/Fly Returns including Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
12	Longest Time Away from Gate for Gate Returns or Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
13	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	MEM
14	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	0914
15	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	185
16	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	185
17	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1219
18	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	DFW
19	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1359
20	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	60
21	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	60
22	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	1459

#### Sample Record Format:

ZZ,1234,DFW,BNA,20110823,0737,0757,1650,1657,N736ZZ,,,MEM,0914,185,185,1219,DFW,1359,60,60,1459

**Reporting Example**

**Initial filing (August 23 through September 30, 2011) with no 3 hour tarmac times**

**Subsequent months with no 3 hour tarmac times are not report to BTS**

**RECORD DESCRIPTION: Part 244 - Tarmac Delay Data**

	<b>Field Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Sample Data</b>
1	Carrier Code		ZZ
2	Flight Number		
3	Departure Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	
4	Arrival Airport Code	3 Letter IATA Code	
5	Date of Operation	Year/Month/Day (8 Digit)	
6	Gate Departure Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
7	Wheels-Off Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
8	Wheels-On Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
9	Gate Arrival Time	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
10	Aircraft Tail Number		
11	Total Ground Time Away From Gate for Gate Returns/Fly Returns including Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
12	Longest Time Away from Gate for Gate Returns or Canceled Flights	In Minutes	
13	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	
14	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
15	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
16	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
17	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
18	Diverted Flight – Airport Landing	3 Letter IATA Code	
19	Wheels-On Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	
20	Total Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
21	Longest Time Away from Gate at Diverted Airport	In Minutes	
22	Wheels-Off Time at Diverted Airport	24 Hour Clock (4 Digit)	

**Sample Record Format:**

ZZ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,