

## Background

As part of its multi-year strategy to modernize its regulatory regime, the Canadian Transportation Agency (Agency) is updating Part VII of the *Air Transportation Regulations*, SOR/ 88-58, as amended (ATR) based on comments received through its consultations with the Agency's Accessibility Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from the community of persons with disabilities (PWDs), the transportation industry and other interested parties.

Part VII of the ATR sets out the terms and conditions of carriage of PWDs and requires air carriers to provide various services to these persons to ensure their equal access to air travel. These regulations apply to domestic air services operated by air carriers using aircraft that have 30 or more passenger seats.

Given that most of the existing provisions in Part VII are subject to the *Canadian Transportation Agency Designated Provisions Regulations*, SOR/99-244 (DPR) and that the amendments propose new provisions as well as a reorganization of some sections, the DPR will need to be amended accordingly.

The proposed regulatory amendments are expected to be published in Part I of the *Canada Gazette* in 2014 or early in 2015. As part of this process, the industry and Canadians will have 30 days to provide comments on the proposed amendments.

The amendments consist mainly of clarifications or new provisions regarding the following:

- Sufficient space for service animals;
- Advance seat assignments;
- Removal of a requirement to carry mobility aids based on an arbitrary 60-seat threshold;
- Temporary replacement of a mobility aid that has been lost or damaged;
- Roles and responsibilities during in-flight transfers to/from mobility aids;
- Orientation for persons who are blind or partially sighted;
- Housekeeping changes, such as clarifying language, rearranging the order of certain sections; and
- Amending the DPR accordingly.