



**Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee**

# **Seating Accommodations**

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# General Requirements

**14 CFR 382.81 and 382.85**

- Airlines are required to provide certain seating accommodations.
- Passenger must self-identify.
- Airlines must ensure that request is recorded and transmitted to the appropriate personnel.

# Specific Seating Accommodations

**14 CFR 382.81**

Categories entitled to a specific seat type:

Aisle chair and cannot readily transfer over a fixed aisle armrest



*Seat in a row with a movable aisle armrest*



# Specific Seating Accommodations

**14 CFR 382.81**

Categories entitled to a specific seat type:

Personal care attendant;  
Reader/assistant; Interpreter;  
or Safety assistant



*Adjoining seats*

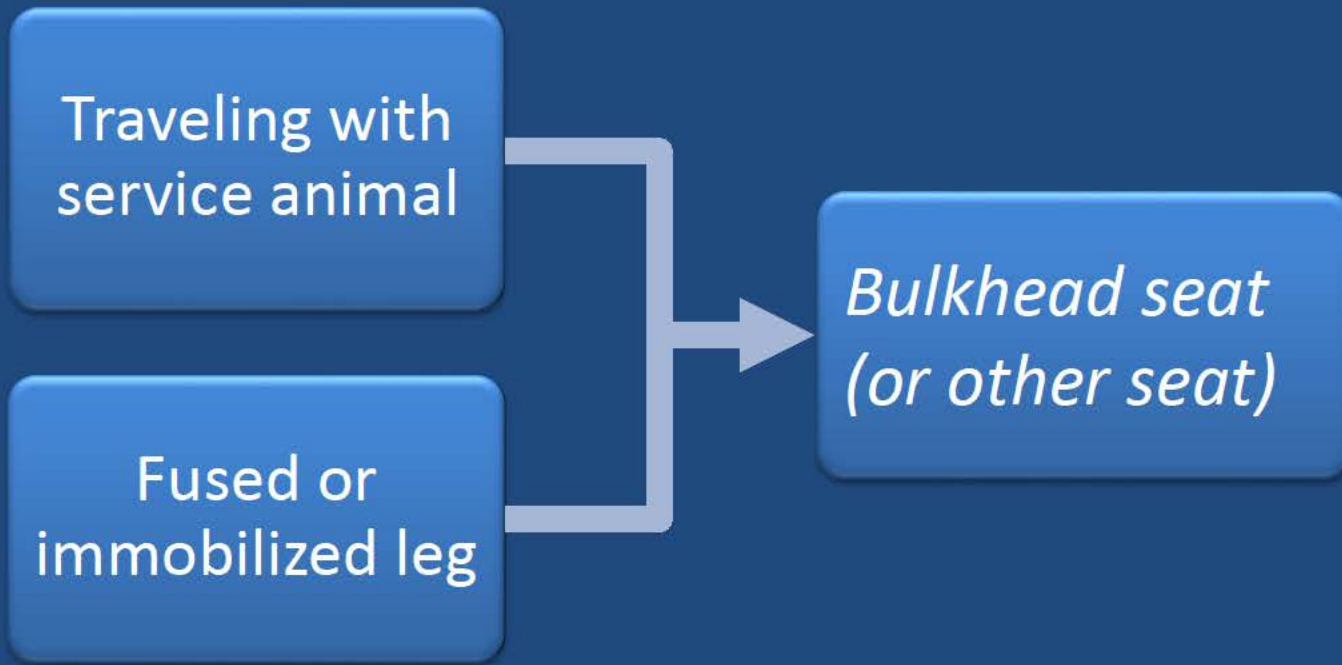




# Specific Seating Accommodations

**14 CFR 382.81**

Categories entitled to a specific seat type:



# Seating Methods

## Advanced Seat Assignments

### Blocked

- Block adequate number of seats.
- Passengers must make request > 24 hours in advance.
- Seat not guaranteed if request < 24 hours in advance.
  - *But must meet the passenger's request to the extent practicable.*

**14 CFR 382.83(a)(1)**

### Priority

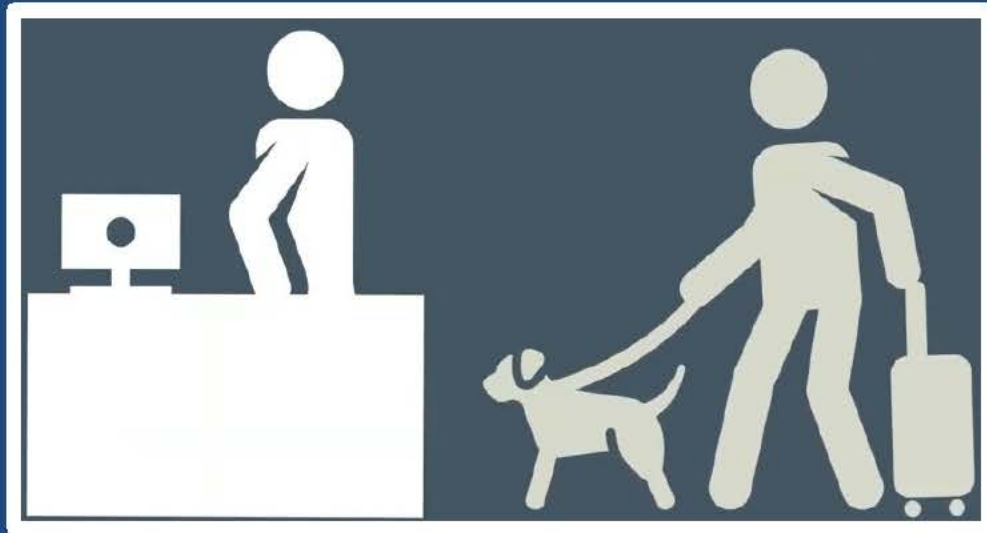
- Designate adequate number of seats.
- Reassigning seats might be necessary.
- Check-in 1 hour before standard check-in time.
- Seat not guaranteed if request < 1 hour before standard check-in.
  - *But must meet the passenger's request to the extent practicable*
- Also applies if seats assigned on the day of departure.

**14 CFR 382.83(a)(2)**

# Seating Methods

## No advance seat assignments – “Open Seating”

- Allow passenger to board before all other passengers.





# Other Seating Accommodations

## 14 CFR 382.85

- For passengers that do not fall into categories in section 382.81, airlines still required to provide a seating accommodation that best meets disability-related needs.





# Other Seating Accommodations

## 14 CFR 382.85

For all passengers with a disability who do meet one of the categories in 14 CFR 382.81

### Blocked

- Passengers must make request > 24 hours in advance.
- Not required to offer blocked seats.
- Must assign any unassigned seat.

### Priority

- Check-in 1 hour before standard check-in time.
- Could be reassigned if provided a designated priority seat.
- Also applies if seats assigned on the day of departure.

### Open Seating

- Preboard before all other passengers.

# Other Requirements

## 14 CFR 382.87

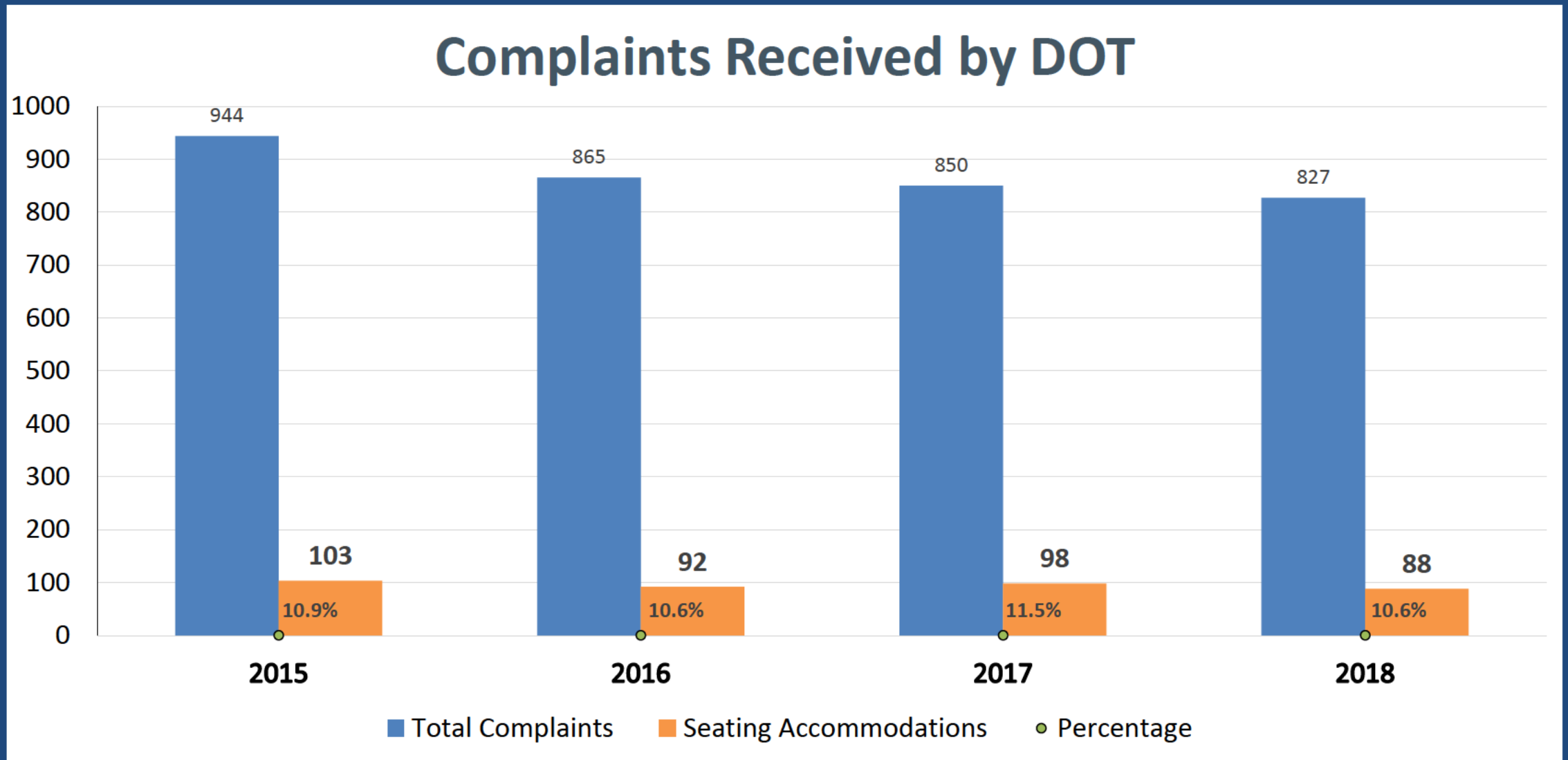
- May not exclude from certain seats or require to sit in certain seats.
- Must comply with FAA and foreign governments' safety rules.
- Not required to furnish more than one seat per ticket.
- Not required to provide a seat in a class of service other than the one purchased.

# Future Rulemaking

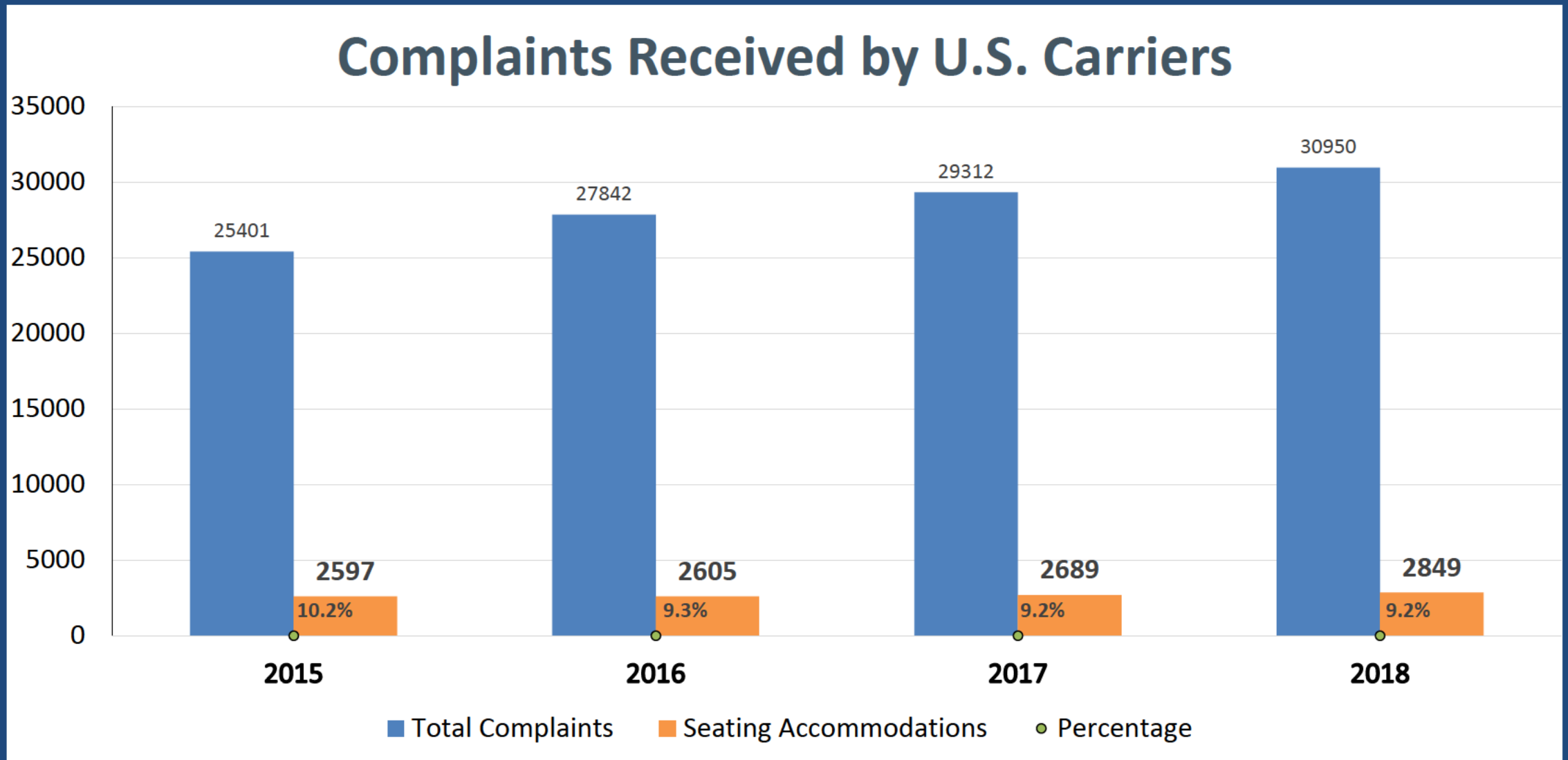
- The Department has plans to draft a rulemaking that would consider:
  1. Whether to broaden the scope of passengers with disabilities who must be afforded seats with extra leg room, and
  2. Whether carriers should be required to provide seating accommodations with extra leg room in all classes of service.
- The Fall 2019 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions identifies this action as a rulemaking that the Department plans to issue.



# Seating Accommodation Complaints



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