Airline Travel Insurance Refunds!

April 28/2020



Airline refunds for flights to, within or from the United States (US)

The <u>US Dept of Transportation</u> requires that all US and foreign airlines with flights travelling to, within or from the US provide a refund to travellers when the airline cancels the flight.

For example, if a traveller has a flight to New York with Air Canada, and the airline cancels the flight, the traveller is entitled to a full refund on their airfare.

Airline refunds for flights travelling within or scheduled to leave the European Union (EU)

The <u>European Commission</u> requires that any airline with flights travelling within or scheduled to leave Europe to provide a refund to travellers when the airline cancels the flight. For cancelled flights into Europe, refunds are available for all European airlines. This applies to EU member countries and the non-EU members that are part of the Schengen zone (Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland).

For example, if a traveller has a flight from Montreal to Paris with Air France, and the airline cancels the flight, the traveller is entitled to a refund on their airfare. But if a traveler had booked the flight with Air Canada and that flight was cancelled, Air Canada is not required to issue a refund under the EU's Air Passenger Rights, although they might choose to do so. If the airline does not issue a refund, the insured may then claim for the non-refundable expenses.

How does this impact Trip Cancellation & Trip Interruption coverage?

- These expenses aren't covered under our policy since they are refundable by the airline. TuGo's Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance covers **non-refundable** pre-paid travel costs.
- Since travellers are entitled to refunds when these flights are cancelled by the airlines, they must contact the airline directly.
- Unfortunately, not all airlines are following these obligations, so the traveller

may have to escalate a complaint with their carrier.

What if the traveller cancelled their flight?

If the traveller cancels the flight themselves, then these airlines are not obligated to provide a refund.

Remember!

Travellers **can't submit a claim** if they're receiving a refund or a credit voucher from airlines, cruises and other travel providers. Making your customers aware of these ineligible expenses will save them time, or from disappointment if their claim is denied.

Questions? Contact Your Account Manager

