

Allegiant's Nonunion Pilots Try for Teamster Representation

By [SUSAN CAREY](#)

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters union said Monday it has asked the government to call an election to determine if the nonunion pilots at discount carrier Allegiant Airlines wish to be represented by the union.

Allegiant, a unit of Las Vegas-based [Allegiant Travel Co.](#), [ALGT -2.50%](#) said it received notification from the National Mediation Board that the Teamsters have applied for an election for the 350 pilots. The NMB is the federal agency that oversees labor relations in the airline industry.

The ultra-low cost carrier, which serves leisure routes throughout the country, is currently nonunion with the exception of its 510 flight attendants. The attendants in late 2010 voted in favor of representation by the Transport Workers Union. A much smaller group of flight dispatchers in early 2011 didn't muster enough votes to join the TWU.

The NMB must determine if there is a sufficient showing of interest by the Allegiant pilots to schedule an election. Then a majority of the pilots who cast ballots in such an election would have to vote for the Teamsters. David Bourne, director of the Teamster's airline division, said in a statement, "We look forward to a favorable ruling on our application by the NMB and a vote being scheduled as soon as possible."

Allegiant, which has been profitable for the past 37 quarters, employs the full-time equivalent of 1,700 workers and operates 58 jetliners. "We strongly believe that Allegiant's success is attributable in large part to our pilots and the direct, open relationship we have with them," Maurice Gallagher, the chairman and chief executive officer, said Monday in a statement. "We are committed to ensuring a fair election and are confident Allegiant pilots will cast their votes based on facts, and not rush to judgment based on IBT propaganda."

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