

SUMMARY

FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT APPLICATION Docket OST 98-4531

Cherokee Air, Ltd.

Flag: The Bahamas.

Federal Register Notice: 63 FR 66625, December 2, 1998.

Filing Date: November 18, 1998.

Authority Sought: Amendment of carrier's currently-effective foreign air carrier permit to limit its operations to those involving only small aircraft (*i.e.*, aircraft designed to have a maximum passenger capacity of not more than 60 seats or a maximum payload capacity of not more than 18,000 pounds).

Pleadings: No answers were filed in response to Cherokee Air's application.

Public Interest: We find that the relief sought by Cherokee Air is warranted in the public interest, as it will conform its permit authority to the small-aircraft operations the carrier is actually conducting, and will enable it to take advantage of relief we previously granted certain foreign air carriers (Order 98-1-31) from the requirement that they file family support plans under the provisions of the Foreign Air Carrier Family Support Act (49 U.S.C. 41313).

Fitness: Cherokee Air has been in continuous operation since February, 1987, and has provided charter services between the Bahamas and the United States since 1990 (*see* Order 90-11-28). Cherokee Air's current foreign air carrier permit was granted by Order 96-5-8, and is effective through May 6, 2001, and the applicant has asserted that all the evidentiary information contained in its application for this permit (Docket 49103) remain unchanged. The amendment at issue here would only have the effect of limiting the size of aircraft the carrier may operate under its currently effective authority.

DOT verifies compliance with 14 CFR Parts 203 (Warsaw liability waiver), 205 (insurance requirements), and 129 (FAA operations specifications).

Ownership and Control: Cherokee Air remains substantially owned and effectively controlled by citizens of the Bahamas.