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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC**

Served: March 19, 2001

NOTICE

U.S.-Argentina Combination Charter Opportunities¹

By this notice we advise U.S. carriers of the available combination charter opportunities between the United States and Argentina in accordance with the U.S.-Argentina Air Transport Services Agreement, as amended on November 24, 2000.

The Agreement provides that:

From April 1, 2001, to November 30, 2001, up to 52 round-trip flights may be operated.²

From December 1, 2001, up to 104 round-trip flights may be operated per year (December 1 through November 30).

The Agreement also provides that charter flights in excess of the limits set forth above shall be given favorable consideration on the basis of comity and reciprocity. Each country is responsible for allocating the available charters among the airlines and notifying the other country of its distribution of charters.

In order for the Department to meet its obligations under the new amendment, we will provide to the carrier a Notice of Consistency for each charter flight or program that U.S. air carriers will operate in the U.S.-Argentina market. The carrier should include the Notice of Consistency in its application to Argentina for charter flight approval.

Therefore, to ensure that U.S. carrier charter interests are efficiently and equitably accommodated within the agreed numerical limits, we are requesting that U.S. carriers comply with the following requirements.

¹ There are no restrictions on the number of cargo charters that may be operated.

² Although the Agreement refers to round-trip charters, a one-way flight will count as one flight under the terms of the quota.

As soon as arrangements are firm for operating a charter flight to or from Argentina, U.S. carriers interested in operating flights should advise the U.S. Air Carrier Licensing Division (X-44), Office of International Aviation, in writing so that we may provide them with a Notice of Consistency acknowledging their right to perform the charter operation. All submissions should include, at a minimum, the following information: (a) type of charter--passenger only or combination; (b) the number of flights to be operated; (c) flight dates; (d) the charterer(s); (e) the city-pair markets involved by direction; and (f) the type of aircraft to be used.

Unless confidential treatment is sought in accordance with the Department's rules, all information supplied in response to these requests will be available for public inspection in the U.S. Air Carrier Licensing Division, Room 6412.

The information requested here does not relieve U.S. carriers of their obligation to file a separate notification of proposed charter flights with the Argentine authorities, as required under their regulations. For further clarification of Argentina's procedures, carriers should communicate directly with the civil aviation authority of Argentina.

We hope to accommodate U.S. carrier operations within the limit set forth in the amended agreement. In the interest of deriving maximum benefit for U.S. carriers, travelers, and shippers, we will seek to assure that Notices are given on a first-come, first-served basis only to direct air carriers for flights actually to be operated. In this regard, the staff may require operating carriers to produce contracts or other additional information about the flights they will operate.

We will serve this notice on all U.S. certificated air carriers, the National Air Carrier Association, and the Air Transport Association.

By:

PAUL L. GRETCH
Director
Office of International Aviation

(SEAL)

Dated: March 14, 2001

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at:
http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports_aviation.asp*