

**BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Application of )  
 )  
**DELTA AIR LINES, INC.** ) **Docket OST-99-\_\_\_\_\_**  
 )  
**for an Exemption Under 49 U.S.C. § 40109** )  
**(U.S.-Baku, Azerbaijan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan)** )

**APPLICATION OF DELTA AIR LINES, INC.  
FOR AN EXEMPTION**

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**March 29, 1999**

**Note: Delta is requesting expedited action on this application and will conduct a poll of the carrier representatives listed on the attached service list. Answers to this application would otherwise be due by April 13, 1999.**

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<b>for an Exemption Under 49 U.S.C. § 40109</b>	)	
<b>(U.S.-Bazu, Azerbaijan; Tashkent, Uzbekistan)</b>	)	

**APPLICATION OF DELTA AIR LINES, INC.  
FOR AN EXEMPTION**

Delta Air Lines, Inc. ("Delta") hereby applies for an exemption authorizing it to engage in scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between a point or points in the United States, on the one hand, and Baku, Azerbaijan and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the other hand. Delta further requests authority to integrate this exemption with all of Delta's existing certificate and exemption authority, to the extent permitted by applicable international agreements.

Delta plans to offer service to Baku on a third-country codeshare basis in conjunction with its alliance partner, Austrian Airlines, Österreichische Luftverkehrs AG ("Austrian") and is concurrently submitting a 30-day notice to the Department regarding this new service. In addition, Delta plans to

**Application of Delta Air Lines, Inc.**  
**Page 2**

implement third-country codeshare service to Tashkent as soon as one of its codeshare partners commences service to that point.<sup>1</sup> Delta respectfully requests that the Department grant the requested exemption authority as soon as possible so that Delta is able to implement its U.S.-Azerbaijan and U.S.-Uzbekistan services without delay.<sup>2</sup> Delta requests that the exemption authority remain in effect until 90 days after the Department's final determination on an application for U.S.-Azerbaijan/Uzbekistan certificate authority.

Grant of this application is in the public interest. It will enable Delta to institute U.S.-flag service between the United States, on the one hand, and Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, on the other hand, which are relatively thin markets that otherwise receive only very limited service. The addition of Delta's on-line service to Baku and Tashkent will enhance competition and service options for consumers. Moreover, approval of this exemption will enable Delta to make effective use of the rights available to U.S. carriers under the U.S.-Uzbekistan Open Skies agreement.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Austrian has firm plans to implement service between Vienna and Tashkent by March 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Delta will conduct a poll of interested parties regarding this application and will advise the Department of the results as soon as possible.

<sup>3</sup> The aviation relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan is governed by principles of comity and reciprocity.

**Application of Delta Air Lines, Inc.**  
**Page 3**

WHEREFORE, Delta requests that the Department promptly grant the exemption authority described herein to enable Delta to institute codeshare service between the United States, on the one hand, and Baku, Azerbaijan and Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the other hand, and grant such other and further relief as the Department may determine to be in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,



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