

Application of Delta Air Lines, Inc.

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In filing this renewal application, Delta hereby invokes the automatic extension provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 558(c), as implemented by 14 C.F.R. Part 377. This application is timely filed pursuant to Section 377.10(c).

The Department initially granted two-year exemptions authorizing Delta to provide service on the U.S.-Baku/Tashkent (Docket OST-99-5459) and U.S.-Tbilisi (Docket OST-99-5594) routes by Notices of Action Taken dated May 4 and May 17, 1999, respectively. Delta originally provided service to Baku and Tbilisi on a third-country codeshare basis with Austrian Airlines, but that arrangement has been discontinued. Delta nevertheless seeks renewal of its exemption authority for all three points to provide it with the flexibility to resume or commence service with its own aircraft or in conjunction with its codeshare partners, as market conditions warrant.

The authority to serve Tashkent continues to be consistent with the U.S.-Uzbekistan open skies agreement and the authority to serve Baku and Tbilisi continues to be governed by principles of comity and reciprocity. Delta will provide service to each of these points only to the extent permitted by the relevant foreign authorities.

Renewal of this exemption authority is in the public interest. These exemptions have allowed Delta to provide third-country codeshare service to foreign points that enjoy very limited air access. Renewal will allow Delta to resume online service between the United States and points with respect to which U.S. carrier online service options are otherwise very limited.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Delta respectfully requests that the Department renew the exemption authority described herein and grant such other and further relief as the Department deems to be consistent with the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,



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