



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Joint Application of American Airlines, Inc.
and Delta Air Transport, NV d/b/a SN Brussels Airlines
for Approval of and Antitrust Immunity for an Alliance Agreement
under 49 U.S.C. §§ 41308 and 41309 (Docket OST-2003-16530)**

NOTICE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL DATES

On November 13, 2003, American Airlines, Inc. (“American”) and its affiliates,¹ and Delta Air Transport, NV d/b/a SN Brussels Airlines (“SN Brussels”) filed jointly for approval of and antitrust immunity for an Alliance Agreement,² together with exhibits. On November 17 and December 10, American and SN Brussels jointly filed motions under 14 C.F.R. 302.12 (Rule 12) seeking confidential treatment.³ The parties maintain that these documents are proprietary, commercially sensitive, and confidential in nature, qualifying them to be withheld from public disclosure. They have asked that access to this material be limited to counsel and outside experts for interested parties.⁴

We have finished our initial review. We find that the application is now substantially complete.⁵ We will require that answers to the application be filed no later than 21 calendar days from the issue date of this Notice, and that replies be filed no later than 7 business days after the last day for filing an answer.

¹ Specifically, TWA Airlines LLC, American Eagle Airlines, Inc., and Executive Airlines d/b/a American Eagle.

² See Exhibit JA-1.

³ Both the November 17 and December 10 motions are unopposed.

⁴ See Motions at 1. We will rule on the merits of these motions by subsequent order. By Notice dated November 25, 2003, we granted immediate interim access to all documents covered by the earlier filed motion, and to any subsequent materials that may be filed confidentially in this proceeding, to counsel and outside experts for interested parties, upon affidavit, consistent with conditions agreed to by the Joint Applicants and imposed by the Department in similar recent cases. At the same time, we suspended the procedural schedule of this case, pending a determination of completeness.

⁵ We reserve the right to require the filing of additional information deemed relevant to the proceeding at any time.

We shall serve this Notice on all persons on the service list for this docket.

By:

KARAN K. BHATIA
Assistant Secretary
for Aviation and International Affairs

Date: December 23, 2003

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