

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Application of)
)
)
DELTA AIR LINES, INC.) Docket OST-2006-
)
for an exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 40109)
(Atlanta, Georgia – Leon/Guanajuato, Mexico))

APPLICATION OF DELTA AIR LINES, INC.
FOR AN EXEMPTION

Communications with respect to this document should be addressed to:

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April 5, 2006

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Delta Air Lines, Inc. (“Delta”) hereby applies under 49 U.S.C. § 40109 and Subpart C of the Department’s Rules of Practice in Proceedings for an exemption authorizing Delta to provide scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between Atlanta, Georgia and Leon/Guanajuato, Mexico.¹ Delta requests that such authority remain in effect for a period of at least two years, or until 90 days after final Department action on an application of Delta for Atlanta-Leon/Guanajuato certificate authority, whichever occurs first.²

¹ Delta also requests a codeshare-only authorization for this route.

² An application for renewal and amendment of Delta’s Route 562 U.S.-Mexico certificate authority is pending before the Department, which includes a request to add the Atlanta-Leon route to Delta’s certificate. See Application dated November 30, 2004 in Docket OST-1999-6275. Although Delta’s authority to serve this route under an exemption in Docket OST-2000-7390 has subsequently become dormant, Delta requests that Atlanta-Leon remain part of its pending Route 562 renewal/amendment application and be added to the certificate when it is next reissued, in light of the planned service described herein.

Delta plans to commence Atlanta- Leon/Guanajuato service on or about December 1, 2006, by displaying its “DL” designator code on new nonstop “Delta Connection” flights operated by Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc. (“ASA”).³ ASA’s proposed new flights will operate year-round on a daily basis, using 70-seat CRJ-700 aircraft. In order to allow Delta to engage in essential advance marketing efforts, Delta requests that its exemption authority to serve this route be issued as soon as possible.

Delta is fit, willing, and able to perform the Atlanta-Leon services applied for herein. Delta operates numerous services between the United States and Mexico under various exemptions and pursuant to Delta’s certificate authority for Routes 562 and 630. *See* Orders 2000-5-31 and 92-5-20. Delta requests that the Department take official notice, pursuant to Rule 24 of the Department’s Rules of Practice, of all data on file with the Department necessary to establish Delta’s fitness.

Grant of this application is in the public interest and will provide important new service and competitive options for U.S.-Mexico travelers and shippers. Given the extensive network of U.S. cities served by Delta and the Delta Connection carriers from Atlanta on a nonstop basis, Delta’s proposed new service will provide travelers throughout the United States with enhanced online service to Leon/Guanajuato. The proposed new Leon service will also

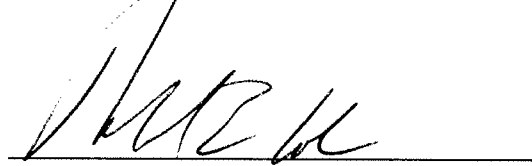
³ ASA is submitting a separate exemption application for this route.

complement, and build on the success of, Delta's substantial service offerings to Mexico from its Atlanta hub.

Approval of the requested exemption is consistent with the U.S.-Mexico Air Transport Services Agreement, as amended. Up to ten U.S. carriers may be authorized to provide codeshare-only services on any nonstop U.S.-Mexico route, leaving abundant opportunities available.

WHEREFORE, Delta requests that the Department promptly grant the exemption authority described herein, and grant such other and further relief as the Department deems to be in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,



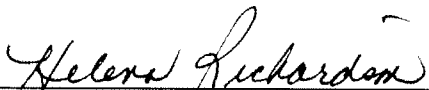
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Application of Delta Air Lines, Inc. has been served this 5th day of April, 2006, upon the following addressees:

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