

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

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Application of)	
)	
SPIRIT AIRLINES, INC.)	Docket OST-2007-_____
)	
for an exemption pursuant to)	
49 U.S.C. § 40109)	
(U.S.- Cartagena, Colombia))	
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**APPLICATION OF SPIRIT AIRLINES, INC.
FOR AN EXEMPTION**

Communications with respect to this document should be sent to:

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Attorneys for
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Dated: November 16, 2007

**NOTICE: ANY PERSON MAY FILE AN ANSWER TO THIS APPLICATION.
ANSWERS MUST BE FILED IN THIS DOCKET, AND SERVED UPON
THE PARTIES LISTED ABOVE, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2007.
WE WILL POLL U.S. CARRIERS.**

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**APPLICATION OF SPIRIT AIRLINES, INC.
FOR AN EXEMPTION**

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109 and Subpart C of the Department’s Procedural Rules, 14 CFR § 302.301, et seq., Spirit Airlines, Inc. (“Spirit”) applies for an exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 41101 authorizing it to engage in scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between points in the United States, on the one hand, and Cartagena, Colombia, on the other hand and to designate Spirit for such service.

In support of this application, Spirit states as follows:

1. Spirit was founded in 1980, and has hubs in Detroit and Ft. Lauderdale. It is now the leading low-fare carrier serving routes between the U.S. and the Caribbean, and Latin America. It currently serves 36 destinations with 185 daily flights and over the next several months will be introducing new low-cost service to additional destinations in Central America

Application of Spirit Airlines

U.S.- Cartagena, Columbia Exemption

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and the Caribbean.

2. Spirit's new Ultra Low Cost Carrier ("ULCC") services advance the public interest by making low cost air travel much more available between the U.S. and Latin America at a time when economic and cultural ties between the U.S. and Latin America are on the rise. Spirit has already received an extraordinarily positive response in Latin America to its new ULCC service. It seeks this exemption to avail itself of the open skies element of the recent amendment to the U.S.- Colombia Air Transport Agreement that makes Cartagena and Barranquilla open skies points for service from the U.S. This will enable Spirit to initiate ULCC foreign air transportation from the United States to Cartagena. Spirit expects an equally positive response from the public to this new service.

3. Specifically, Spirit requests the following authority: From a point or points in the U.S. via intermediate points to Cartagena, Colombia and beyond to points in the Western Hemisphere.

4. Spirit is a citizen of the United States within the meaning of 49 U.S.C. §40102(a)(5), and is fit, willing and able to perform the foreign air transportation described herein. Spirit holds a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide interstate air transportation of persons, property and mail. *See* Order 98-7-6. Pursuant to the Department's order issued on May 7, 2007, Spirit was granted a Blanket Open Skies Certificate for foreign air transportation. *See* Order 2007-7-3. Spirit also holds exemption authority to serve various points outside the United States. *See, e.g.*, Notice of Action Taken, Docket OST-2003-15306, dated July 23, 2003 (U.S.-Mexico), Notice of Action Taken, Docket OST-2007-27364 dated February

28, 2007 (U.S.-Peru). There have been no material changes within the company that would affect those prior fitness findings.

5. Spirit initially will provide daily scheduled air service between Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Cartagena using Airbus 144 seat, A319 and/or 198 seat, A321 aircraft. Spirit will be the first carrier of any nationality to provide scheduled non-stop service between the U.S. and Cartagena and will bring important new competitive options to the market. It will begin service as soon as it receives all needed governmental approvals from the U.S. and Colombia. In this connection Spirit requests expedited approval of this application. The initial schedule for this service is set forth at Exhibit NK-1.

6. Spirit's requested scheduled air service is now authorized by the recent amendment to the U.S.-Colombia Air Transportation Agreement, which entered into force on October 1, 2007 and provides for unlimited scheduled passenger service between the U.S. and Colombian cities of Cartagena and Barranquilla.¹

7. Spirit's entry into the U.S.-Cartagena market will expand the service options available to the traveling public and stimulate additional personal and business travel. Currently there is no non-stop service between Cartagena and the United States. Cartagena's Rafael Núñez International Airport is the second largest airport on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. Spirit's low-fare service would generate new travel and provide great consumer benefits to the traveling public in the U.S – Cartagena market. As such, Spirit's proposed new service clearly would advance the public interest.

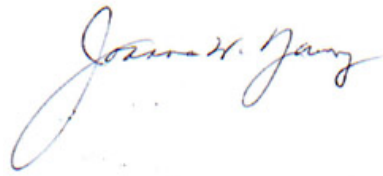
¹ Spirit may decide to pursue at a future time a similar authorization for service from the U.S. to Barranquilla, Colombia.

8. Spirit will continue to abide by all of the conditions and limitations the Department attaches to exemption authorities.

9. Spirit does not anticipate that annual fuel consumption for its service will exceed the ten million gallon threshold specified in Section 313.4(a)(1) of the Department's regulations. Approval of Spirit's application does not qualify as a major regulatory action under Part 313 of the Department's rules.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Spirit respectfully requests that the Department grant the exemption authority requested above for a minimum period of two years, and designate Spirit for this service. Spirit further requests any different or additional relief that the Department may deem necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joanne W. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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SPIRIT AIRLINES, INC.

FORT LAUDERDALE – CARTAGENA SERVICE

NK 155	NK 156
Frequency : Daily	Frequency : Daily
DEP FLL - 0700 ARR CTG -0940	DEP CTG - 1030 ARR FLL - 1315

Service will commence with two flights a week on Mondays and Thursdays and expects to increase to daily service on or about March 9, 2008.

All times listed are local times. Departure and Arrival times in Colombia will be one hour earlier than U.S. Eastern Time when U.S. Daylight Savings Time is in effect.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing "Application of Spirit Airlines, Inc. for an Exemption" by email on the following persons:

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November 16, 2007