

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

Application of)
)
)
 DELTA AIR LINES, INC.) Docket OST-2008-_____
)
 For an exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109)
 (U.S.-Argentina))

APPLICATION OF DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

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June 9, 2008

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Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109 and Subpart C of the Department’s Rules of Practice in Proceedings, Delta Air Lines, Inc. (“Delta”) hereby applies for an exemption authorizing Delta to operate scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property, and mail between New York, New York, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Delta further requests five U.S.-Argentina frequencies and (to the extent necessary) designations in order to operate such services. Delta asks that this authority remain in effect for at least two years or until ninety days after final Department action granting a Delta application for certificate authority with respect to these routes, whichever occurs earlier.

Pursuant to the exchange of notes dated July 3, 2007, the U.S.-Argentina service opportunities available to U.S. carriers have been dramatically expanded and there are more than sufficient unallocated frequencies available to satisfy Delta’s request. As of March 21, 2008, up to 98 weekly round trip frequencies by U.S. carriers were authorized. As of March 21, 2009, up to 112 frequencies will be available. Currently, only 56 weekly round trip frequencies are operated by U.S. carriers.

Delta plans to inaugurate nonstop New York (JFK) – Buenos Aires service on or about December 18, 2008, using B-767-300ER aircraft currently in its fleet configured

with 178 coach class and 36 business class passenger seats. The service will initially be operated 5 times per week during the peak season (December-April) and 4 times per week during the remainder of the year. Delta requests the flexibility to use all 5 frequencies on a seasonal basis so that it can quickly adjust its service levels to market demand.


Grant of this Application is clearly in the public interest. Delta's proposed services will expand capacity and service in the U.S.-Argentina market by increasing the options available to consumers and shippers seeking convenient transportation to and from the leading U.S. international gateway at New York and Buenos Aires.

Delta is fit, willing, and able to perform the U.S.-Argentina services applied for herein. Delta currently serves Buenos Aires from Atlanta, *see* DOT Order 2001-1-14, and a number of other destinations in South America and Central America from its gateways in the eastern United States. 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.

The environmental impact of Delta's proposed services are de minimis, and Delta does not anticipate that its additional U.S.-Argentina services will cause a near-term net annual change in aircraft fuel consumption of 10 million gallons or more.

WHEREFORE, Delta requests that the Department grant the exemption authority, frequencies, and, to the extent necessary, designations requested herein for its proposed U.S.-Argentina services.

Respectfully submitted,



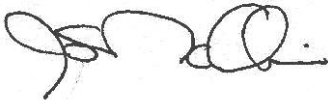
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing document by email on the following persons:

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