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

Issued by the Department of Transportation on March 5, 2001

**NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN -- DOCKET OST-2000-8448-4**

This serves as notice to the public of the action described below, taken by the Department official indicated (no additional confirming order will be issued in this matter).

Applicant: **Santa Barbara Airlines, C.A.**  
February 15, 2001

Date Filed: December 1, 2000, as amended

Relief requested: Exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 41301 to engage in scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between Caracas and Maracaibo, Venezuela, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and authority to conduct charters in accordance with Part 212 of the Department's rules. The applicant would conduct these services only by wet leasing aircraft from a duly authorized and properly supervised U.S. or foreign air carrier.

If renewal, date and citation of last action: New authority

Applicant representative: Lawrence D. Wasko (202) 862-4370

Responsive pleadings: On March 2, 2001, Aeropostal Alas de Venezuela, C.A., a foreign air carrier of Venezuela, filed an answer in response to Santa Barbara Airlines' request. Aeropostal states that it does not oppose Santa Barbara's request but only to the extent that we would grant Aeropostal similar authority.

**DISPOSITION**

Action: Approved

Action date: March 5, 2001

As regards Aeropostal, we note that the carrier has no pending request for Fort Lauderdale authority on file with the Department. Should such a request be filed, we will consider it at that time. In the circumstance presented, however, we see no reason to withhold the requested authority from Santa Barbara.

Effective dates of authority granted: March 5, 2001-March 5, 2002

Basis for approval (bilateral agreement/reciprocity): Reciprocity with Venezuela

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations indicated:

X Standard exemption conditions (attached)

Special conditions/Partial grant/Denial basis/Remarks: Based on the record in this case, we found that Santa Barbara Airlines is financially and operationally qualified to perform the services authorized above. In addition, we found that Santa Barbara Airlines is substantially owned and effectively controlled by citizens of Venezuela. Specifically, all of Santa Barbara Airlines' owners and chief management personnel are citizens of Venezuela. The carrier is properly licensed by the Government of Venezuela to perform the proposed services. Santa Barbara Airlines may not conduct U.S. operations with its own aircraft and crews without further order of the Department.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Venezuela is currently a Category 2 country under the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment Program (IASA).

The authority granted above will also be subject to our requirement that foreign air carriers of Venezuela obtain our prior approval in the form of a statement of authorization prior to operating any Third and Fourth Freedom charter flights. See Orders 81-5-44, 88-8-15, 90-6-49 and 91-1-42.

**Action taken by: Paul L. Gretch, Director  
Office of International Aviation**

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Under authority assigned by the Department in its regulations, 14 CFR Part 385, we found that (1) the applicant was qualified to perform the proposed operations; (2) our action was consistent with Department policy; (3) grant of the authority was consistent with the public interest; and (4) grant of the authority would not constitute a major regulatory action under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act

of 1975. To the extent not granted/deferred/dismissed, we denied all requests in the referenced Docket. We may amend, modify, or revoke the authority granted in this Notice at any time without hearing at our discretion.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of the action set forth in this Notice under the Department's regulations, 14 CFR § 385.30, may file their petitions within ten (10) days after the date of issuance of this Notice. This action was effective when taken, and the filing of a petition for review will not alter such effectiveness.

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at:  
[http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports\\_aviation.asp](http://dms.dot.gov/reports/reports_aviation.asp)*

**FOREIGN AIR CARRIER CONDITIONS OF AUTHORITY**

In the conduct of the operations authorized, the holder shall:

- (1) Not conduct any operations unless it holds a currently effective authorization from its homeland for such operations, and it has filed a copy of such authorization with the Department;
- (2) Comply with all applicable requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration, including, but not limited to, 14 CFR Parts 129, 91, and 36;
- (3) Comply with the requirements for minimum insurance coverage contained in 14 CFR Part 205, and, prior to the commencement of any operations under this authority, file evidence of such coverage, in the form of a completed OST Form 6411, with the Federal Aviation Administration's Program Management Branch (AFS-260), Flight Standards Service (any changes to, or termination of, insurance also shall be filed with that office);
- (4) Not operate aircraft under this authority unless it complies with operational safety requirements at least equivalent to Annex 6 of the Chicago Convention;
- (5) Conform to the airworthiness and airman competency requirements of its Government for international air services;
- (6) Except as specifically exempted or otherwise provided for in a Department Order, comply with the requirements of 14 CFR Part 203, concerning waiver of Warsaw Convention liability limits and defenses;
- (7) Agree that operations under this authority constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity, for the purposes of 28 U.S.C. 1605(a), but only with respect to those actions or proceedings instituted against it in any court or other tribunal in the United States that are:

(a) based on its operations in international air transportation that, according to the contract of

carriage, include a point in the United States as a point of origin, point of destination, or agreed stopping place, or for which the contract of carriage was purchased in the United States; or

(b) based on a claim under any international agreement or treaty cognizable in any court or other tribunal of the United States.

In this condition, the term "international air transportation" means "international transportation" as defined by the Warsaw Convention, except that all States shall be considered to be High Contracting Parties for the purpose of this definition;

- (8) Except as specifically authorized by the Department, originate or terminate all flights to/from the United States in its homeland;
- (9) Comply with the requirements of 14 CFR Part 217, concerning the reporting of scheduled, nonscheduled, and charter data;
- (10) If charter operations are authorized, comply (except as otherwise provided in the applicable bilateral agreement) with the Department's rules governing charters (including 14 CFR Parts 212 and 380); and
- (11) Comply with such other reasonable terms, conditions, and limitations required by the public interest as may be prescribed by the Department, with all applicable orders or regulations of other U.S. agencies and courts, and with all applicable laws of the United States.

This authority shall not be effective during any period when the holder is not in compliance with the conditions imposed above. Moreover, this authority cannot be sold or otherwise transferred without explicit Department approval under Title 49 of the U.S. Code (formerly the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended).

