



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation on August 20, 2020

**NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN -- DOCKET DOT-OST-2007-28270**

---

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 : **VIP EMPRESARIAL, S.A. de C.V.**

Date Filed: February 21, 2020

Relief requested: Renewal for two years of exemption under 49 U.S.C. §40109 to authorize the applicant to conduct the full scope of passenger charter rights now available to Mexican carriers under the liberalized bilateral agreement signed on December 18, 2015, between the United States and Mexico. Specifically, the applicant requests renewal of authority to conduct, using small aircraft, passenger charter operations in foreign air transportation between any point or points in Mexico and any point or points in the United States; and from a point or points in Mexico, via an intermediate point or points, to any point or points in the United States, and beyond, as mutually agreed in writing by the aeronautical authorities of the Parties, provided that such service constitutes part of a continuous operation, with or without a change of aircraft, that includes service to Mexico for the purpose of carrying local traffic between Mexico and the United States. The applicant also requests renewal of its authority to conduct other passenger charter operations to/from the United States, such as seventh-freedom passenger charter operations, subject to the additional prior approval requirements of 14 CFR Part 212.

If renewal, date and citation of last action: February 22, 2018, in this Docket.

Applicant representatives: Moffett B. Roller and Charles M. Greene, 202-331-3300

DOT analyst: Robert J. Finamore, 202-366-2405

Responsive pleadings: None.

**DISPOSITION**

Action: Approved, as specified in Special Conditions/Remarks below.

Action date: August 20, 2020

Effective dates of authority granted: August 20, 2020, through August 20, 2022.

Basis for approval (bilateral agreement/reciprocity): The Air Transport Agreement between the United States and Mexico signed on December 18, 2015, and the exchange of letters between the United States and Mexico on May 28, 2015.<sup>1</sup>

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of our standard exemption conditions (attached).

Special Conditions/Remarks: In the conduct of these operations, the carrier must adhere to all applicable provisions of the Agreement and may only use aircraft capable of carrying no more than 60 passengers and having a maximum payload capacity of no more than 18,000 pounds (small aircraft).

Bilaterally authorized charters may be operated without prior approval or submission of advance notice.<sup>2</sup> (Other charter operations to/from the United States under this authority, such as seventh-freedom passenger charter operations, are subject to prior approval under 14 CFR Part 212.) Furthermore, we are continuing to allow Mexican carriers conducting charters to make stopovers in the United States in the conduct of such operations.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Agreement entered into force on August 21, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> We note, however, that the applicant must meet any reporting requirements set forth in its FAA Operations Specifications.

**Action taken by: Esta M. Rosenberg, Acting Director, Office of International Aviation**

---

Under authority assigned by the Department in its regulations, 14 CFR Part 385, we found that (1) our action was consistent with Department policy; (2) the applicant was qualified to perform its proposed operations; (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 seven (7) 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://www.regulations.gov/>

## Foreign Air Carrier Exemption Conditions

In the conduct of the operations authorized, the foreign carrier applicant 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, the Transportation Security Administration, and with all applicable U.S. Government requirements concerning security, including, but not limited to, 14 CFR Parts 129, 91, and 36 and 49 CFR Part 1546 or 1550, as applicable. To assure compliance with all applicable U.S. Government requirements concerning security, the holder shall, before commencing any new service (including charter flights) from a foreign airport that would be the holder's last point of departure for the United States, contact its International Industry Representative (IIR) (formerly referred to as International Principal Security Inspector) to advise the IIR of its plans and to find out whether the Transportation Security Administration has determined that security is adequate to allow such airport(s) to be served;
- (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, except as otherwise provided in the applicable aviation agreement, comply with the Department's rules governing charters (including 14 CFR Parts 212 and 380);
- (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; and
- (12) Be subject to all applicable provisions of any treaty, convention or agreement affecting international air transportation now in effect, or that may become effective during the period this exemption remains in effect, to which the United States and the holder's homeland are or shall become parties.

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.