

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

Application of)	
)	
AIR CHINA LIMITED)	
d/b/a AIR CHINA)	Docket DOT- OST-2018-0019
)	
for renewal of exemption authority pursuant to 49 U.S.C.)	
§ 40109)	

**APPLICATION OF AIR CHINA LIMITED d/b/a AIR CHINA
FOR RENEWAL OF EXEMPTION AUTHORITY**

Communications with respect to this Application should be sent to:

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Counsel for AIR CHINA LIMITED

DATED: May 20, 2020

Notice: Any person may support or oppose this application by filing an answer on or before June 5, 2020.

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**APPLICATION OF AIR CHINA LIMITED d/b/a AIR CHINA
FOR RENEWAL OF EXEMPTION AUTHORITY**

1. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109, Air China Limited, d/b/a Air China, (“Air China”) hereby applies for the renewal of Exemption Authority granted in the Notice of Action Taken (NOAT) issued on June 11, 2019 by the Department of Transportation in Docket DOT-OST-2018-0019, permitting Air China to engage in scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between Beijing, People’s Republic of China on the one hand, and Houston, Texas (IAH), on the other hand, and beyond to Panama City, Panama. This Exemption Authority expires on June 11, 2020. By this Application, Air China respectfully requests that this Exemption Authority be renewed for a period of one (1) year to expire on June 11, 2021, pursuant to NOAT issued June 11, 2019 in Docket DOT-OST-2018-0019. See Exhibit “A” hereto.

2. Air China relies upon the automatic extension provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 558(c), as implemented by 14 C.F.R. Part 377, to continue the presently effective Exemption Authority (Exhibit “A” hereto) in effect pending final Department action on this renewal application. This application is timely filed under 14 C.F.R. § 377.10(c).

WHEREFORE, Air China respectfully requests that the Department of Transportation renew the Exemption Authority applied for herein for a period of one (1) year to June 11, 2021 or until the Department grants Air China’s application for renewal. Air China further requests that the Department grant such other and further relief as the Department finds to be consistent with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Counsel for
AIR CHINA LIMITED

DATED: May 20, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Application of Air China Limited d/b/a Air China for Renewal of Exemption Authority was served by electronic mail this 20th day of May 2020 upon the following:

Counsel for the City of Houston and the Greater Houston Partnership:

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May 20, 2020

George N. Tompkins, III

George N. Tompkins, III

EXHIBIT A



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation on June 11, 2019

NOTICE OF ACTION TAKEN -- DOCKET DOT-OST-2018-0019

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: **AIR CHINA LIMITED d/b/a AIR CHINA (Air China)**

Date Filed: March 1, 2019

Relief requested: Renewal of exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 40109 to engage in scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property, and mail between Beijing, People's Republic of China, on the one hand, and Houston, Texas, on the other hand, and beyond to Panama City, Panama. The applicant requests that this authority be granted for a period of two years.

If renewal, date and citation of last action: March 14, 2018, in this docket.

Applicant representative: George N. Tompkins, III, 212-915-5562

DOT analyst: David R. Christofano, 202-366-0584

Responsive pleadings: The City of Houston filed an answer in support of Air China's application.

DISPOSITION

Action: Approved in part (one-year grant), remainder (request for longer-term authority) dismissed. (See remarks below).

Action date: June 11, 2019

Effective dates of authority granted: June 11, 2019, through June 11, 2020.

Basis for approval: United States-China Air Transport Services Agreement

Except to the extent exempted/waived, this authority is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of our standard foreign air carrier exemption conditions (attached), and to the otherwise-applicable terms, conditions, and limitations of Air China's foreign air carrier permit (Order 2007-7-9).

Special conditions/Remarks: The one-year duration of the authority we granted is consistent with our usual policy of granting exemption authority in the circumstances presented. We, therefore, dismissed the application to the extent that it sought authority for a longer period.

Action taken by: Brian J. Hedberg, 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/denied, 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.