

be initiated to determine whether certain laws and regulations of Pakistan affecting the grant of patents and exclusive marketing rights in innovative pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products are actionable under section 301(a). Article 70 of the TRIPs Agreement requires all countries that do not provide product patent protection for pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals on January 1, 1995, to establish by that time a means by which applications for patents for such inventions can be filed, which is commonly referred to as a "mailbox." These applications are to be reviewed when such protection is ultimately provided in accordance with the transitional provisions of the TRIPs Agreement. This provision allows "mailbox" applicants to preserve their original filing date for the purposes of novelty and nonobviousness considerations in patentability determinations. Article 70 of the TRIPs Agreement also requires those WTO members delaying the grant of pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical product patent protection to grant "mailbox" applicants up to five years of marketing exclusivity if such applicants are granted a patent and marketing approval in another WTO member and marketing approval in the member providing marketing exclusivity. Pakistan has not yet established a "mailbox" for the filing of pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical product patent applications, nor has it established a system for the grant of exclusive marketing rights. These failures would appear to be inconsistent with the obligations set forth in Article 70 of the TRIPs Agreement.

Investigation and Consultations

As required in section 303(a) of the Trade Act, the USTR has requested consultations with the Government of Pakistan regarding the issues under investigation. The request was made pursuant to Article 4 of the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) and Article 64 of the TRIPs Agreement (to the extent it incorporates by reference Article XXII of the General Agreements on Tariff and Trade 1994). If the consultations do not result in a satisfactory resolution of the matter, the USTR will request the establishment of a panel pursuant to Article 6 of the DSU.

Under section 304 of the Trade Act, the USTR must determine within 18 months after the date on which this investigation was initiated, or within 30 days after the conclusion of WTO

dispute settlement procedures, whichever is earlier, whether any act, policy, or practice or denial of trade agreement rights described in section 301 of the Trade Act exists and, if that determination is affirmative, the USTR must determine what action, if any, to take under section 301 of the Trade Act.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the acts, policies and practices of Pakistan which are the subject of this investigation, the amount of burden or restriction on U.S. commerce caused by these acts, policies and practices, and the determinations required under section 304 of the Trade Act. Comments must be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR 2006.8(b) (55 FR 20593) and must be filed on or before noon on Monday, June 3, 1996. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Sybia Harrison, Staff Assistant to the Section 301 Committee, Room 223, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 301-104) open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection. An appointment to review the docket (Docket No. 301-104) may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in Room 101.

Irving A. Williamson,

Chairman, Section 301 Committee.

[FR Doc. 96-11068 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Aviation Proceedings; Agreements Filed During the Week Ending April 26, 1996

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation

under the provisions of 49 U.S.C 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

Docket Number: OST-96-1312.

Date filed: April 25, 1996.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: COMP Reso 024f—South Africa/Swaziland, Local Currency Fare Changes, Intended effective date: June 1, 1996.

Docket Number: OST-96-1313.

Date filed: April 25, 1996.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: CSC/Reso/001—Expedited dated April 9, 1996, Expedited Resos—18th Cargo services Conference (Summary attached.), Intended effective date: July 1, 1996.

Docket Number: OST-96-1314.

Date filed: April 25, 1996.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: CSC/Reso/001—NON-Expedited dated April 9, 1996, Finally Adopted Resos—18th CSC (Summary attached.), Intended effective date: October 1, 1996.

Paulette V. Twine,

Chief, Documentary Services Division.

[FR Doc. 96-11102 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits Filed Under Subpart Q During the Week Ending April 26, 1996

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart Q of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 302.1701 et seq.). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to modify Scope are set forth below for each application. Following the Answer period DOT may process the application by expedited procedures. Such procedures may consist of the adoption of a show-cause order, a tentative order, or in appropriate cases a final order without further proceedings.

Docket Number: OST-96-1292.

Date filed: April 22, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: May 20, 1996.

Description: Application of Polar Air Cargo, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41101 and Subpart Q of the Regulations, to amend its certificate of public convenience and necessity for

Route 651 to authorize the carrier to engage in scheduled air transportation of property and mail between points in the United States and points in Thailand and to integrate those services to Thailand with other services Polar Air is authorized to provide pursuant to its other exemption and certificate authority, consistent with applicable international agreements. Polar Air also requests an allocation of two weekly U.S. Thailand all-cargo frequencies with which to conduct its proposed operations.

Docket Number: OST-96-1293.

Date filed: April 22, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: May 20, 1996.

Description: Application of Air Micronesia, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102 and Subpart Q of the Regulations, for an amendment to its certificate of public convenience and necessity for Route 170 authorizing Air Micronesia to provide scheduled cargo service in foreign air transportation between Guam and a point or points in Palau, the Philippines and Thailand. Air Micronesia also seeks the right to combine service at the points on this route with service at other points Air Micronesia is authorized to serve by certificates or exemptions, including the authority sought by Air Micronesia in Docket OST-95-682, consistent with applicable international agreements, and Air Micronesia applies for an allocation of 7 weekly roundtrip U.S. Thailand all-cargo frequencies.

Docket Number: OST-96-1298.

Date filed: April 23, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: May 21, 1996.

Description: Application of Gemini Air Cargo, LLC, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102 and Subpart Q, of the Regulations, request a certificate of public convenience and necessity to enable it to engage in interstate all-cargo scheduled and charter air transportation.

Docket Number: OST-96-1299.

Date filed: April 23, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: May 21, 1996.

Description: Application of Gemini Air Cargo, LLC, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102, and Subpart Q of the Regulations, for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to enable it to engage in foreign all-cargo scheduled and charter air transportation.

Docket Number: OST-96-1306.

Date filed: April 24, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: May 22, 1996.

Description: Application of Alaska Airlines, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41101 and Subpart Q of the Regulations, requests that the Department of Transportation renew Alaska's certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing Alaska to engage in the scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between Los Angeles, California, on the one hand, and Mazatlan and Puerto Valarta, Mexico, on the other hand; between San Francisco, California, on the one hand, and San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, on the other hand; and between San Diego, California, on the one hand, and San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, on the other hand.

Docket Number: OST-96-1310.

Date filed: April 25, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: May 23, 1996.

Description: Application of LTU Lufttransport-Unternehmen GmbH. & Co., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41302, applies to add Phoenix, Arizona to its Foreign Air Carrier Permit as a coterminal point for scheduled service between Germany and the United States.

Docket Number: OST-96-1318.

Date filed: April 26, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: May 24, 1996.

Description: Application of Continental Airlines, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102 and Subpart Q of the Regulations, requests a five-year renewal of its Route 645 certificate authority to provide scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between Houston and the coterminal points of Barranquilla, Bogota and Cali, Colombia, via the intermediate point of San Jose, Costa Rica, and to combine services on Route 645 with other Continental services authorized by certificate and exemption in compliance with applicable bilateral agreements.

Paulette V. Twine,

Chief, Documentary Services Division.

[FR Doc. 96-11101 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

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Federal Highway Administration

Efficiency, Quality and Effectiveness of Existing Civil Rights Programs; Roundtable Discussions

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The FHWA announces a series of roundtable conferences to obtain information on issues relating to the efficiency, quality, and effectiveness of existing civil rights programs. The agenda for the roundtable discussions includes the topics of state internal and contractor equal employment opportunity (EEO) programs, supportive services, and the administration of specific nondiscrimination statutes. Although the meeting will be open to the public, space will be limited; therefore, the FHWA requests that persons interested in attending the meeting preregister by contacting the "contact person" listed below at least three days prior to the meeting. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program will not be discussed at these roundtables. The DBE program is currently being addressed by a separate interagency workgroup.

DATES: Public meetings will be held at each of the following locations within the span of one day from 8 a.m. to Noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Specific dates and exact locations are as follows:

On May 22, 1996, at Portland State University, Smith Memorial Center, Rooms SMC 294 and SMC 296, 724 South West Harrison Street, Portland, Oregon 97201, contact person: Willie Harris, ph. (503) 326-2067.

On June 4, 1996, at Marque Hotel, 111 Perimeter Center West Atlanta, Georgia 30346, contact person: Pamela Foster, ph. (404) 347-4791.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Linda J. Brown, Chief, Policy and Program Development Division, Office of Civil Rights, Telephone: (202) 366-0471; FAX: (202) 366-1599. Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: April 30, 1996.

Edward W. Morris, Jr.,

Director, Office of Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 96-11091 Filed 5-2-96; 8:45 am]

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