



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

Served: October 25, 2019

Dockets DOT-OST-2016-0021
 DOT-OST-2016-0226
 DOT-OST-1998-20

NOTICE

By this Notice, the U.S. Department of Transportation (the Department) suspends the authority granted to all U.S. carriers that authorizes scheduled foreign air transportation between any point in the United States and any point in Cuba, except José Martí International Airport (HAV) in Havana. This suspension will be effective 45 days after the date of this Notice and will remain in effect until further notice of the Department.

The Department is taking this action at the request of the U.S. Department of State. By letter dated October 25, 2019, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo wrote to Secretary Chao, stating that:

To further the Administration's policy of strengthening the economic consequences to the Cuban regime for its ongoing repression of the Cuban people and its support for Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela, in the foreign policy interests of the United States, I respectfully request that the Department of Transportation suspend until further notice all scheduled U.S. carrier flights between the United States and all airports in Cuba, except José Martí International Airport (HAV) in Havana.¹

Accordingly, the Department is suspending the exemption authority and frequency allocations granted to all U.S. carriers that authorize scheduled foreign air transportation between any point in the United States and any of the nine international airports in Cuba other than Havana,² effective December 10, 2019.³

¹ The full letter is attached as an Appendix to this Notice.

² The nine international airports, other than Havana's José Martí International Airport (HAV), are: the Ignacio Agramonte International Airport in Camagüey (CMW); the Jardines del Rey Airport in Cayo Coco (CCC); the Vilo Acuña Airport in Cayo Largo (CYO); the Jaime González Airport in Cienfuegos (CFG); the Frank País Airport in Holguín (HOG); the Sierra Maestra Airport in Manzanillo (MZO); the Juan Gualberto Gómez Airport in Matanzas (VRA); the Abel Santamaría Airport in Santa Clara (SNU); and the Antonio Maceo Airport in Santiago de Cuba (SCU).

³ U.S. carrier exemption authority and frequency allocations affected by this Notice are all subject to the Department's standard condition that the Department may amend, modify or revoke the authority at any time and without hearing, at its discretion. *See e.g.*, Order 2016-6-5, at 6-7; and Notice of Action Taken

The Department will serve this Notice by electronic mail on certificated U.S. carriers operating large aircraft; the U.S. Department of State; the Federal Aviation Administration (AFS-200); and the Ambassador of Cuba in Washington, DC.

By:

DAVID E. SHORT
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Aviation and International Affairs

(SEAL)

An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.regulations.gov>

dated October 4, 2018, in Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021. We note that nothing in this Notice is intended to interfere with U.S.-Cuba charter services.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 25, 2019

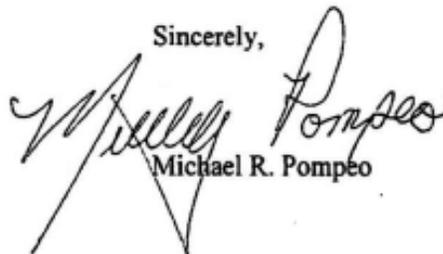
The Honorable
Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madame Secretary:

To further the Administration's policy of strengthening the economic consequences to the Cuban regime for its ongoing repression of the Cuban people and its support for Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela, in the foreign policy interests of the United States, I respectfully request that the Department of Transportation suspend until further notice all scheduled U.S. carrier flights between the United States and all airports in Cuba, except José Martí International Airport (HAV) in Havana. Suspending flights to these nine airports sends a clear message to the Cuban government that the United States is taking firm action in response to the regime's ongoing repression of its people and support for Maduro. Maintaining flights to Jose Marti International Airport preserves the main gateway for travel from the United States to Cuba on commercial flights for family visitation or other lawful purposes.

Upon the Department of Transportation taking the appropriate action, there would be no further scheduled air services between the United States and Cuban airports, except Havana, following a 45-day wind-down period. At this time, no foreign air carriers operate scheduled flights between the United States and Cuba. The State Department considers that such action would not conflict with the U.S. Government's obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Pompeo

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