



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 3rd day of September, 2025

In the matter of the revocation of the certificate
authority issued to

AIRTRAN AIRWAYS, INC.
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, INC.
US AIRWAYS, INC.
VIRGIN AMERICA, INC.

pursuant to the provisions of 14 CFR § 204.7.

Dockets DOT-OST-1998-4024
DOT-OST-2005-22228
DOT-OST-2005-22578
DOT-OST-2005-23307
DOT-OST-2010-0163
DOT-OST-2011-0051
DOT-OST-2013-0082
DOT-OST-2016-0099

ORDER REVOKING CERTIFICATE AUTHORITY

By this Order, the U.S. Department of Transportation is revoking the interstate certificate authorities of AirTran Airways, Inc., Continental Airlines, Inc., US Airways, Inc., and Virgin America, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of 14 CFR § 204.7 to administratively reflect the cessation of operations by these former air carriers following past mergers and acquisitions.

As described in more detail below, the Department previously found fit, and issued certificate authority to, the air carriers captioned above. Since that time, following mergers and acquisitions, each of these air carriers has ceased operations. The Department's regulations under 14 CFR § 204.7 provide that, if an air carrier ceases air transportation operations for which it was found fit, it may neither resume air transportation operations nor advertise such services until its fitness to do so has been re-determined by the U.S. Department of Transportation (the "Department"). Section 204.7 further provides that, if an air carrier does not have its fitness re-determined and resume operations within one year of the date of its cessation, its certificate authority will be revoked for dormancy.

Dockets DOT-OST-1998-4024 and DOT-OST-2011-0051: By Order 2000-9-10, issued September 12, 2000, the Department reissued the interstate certificate authority of AirTran Airways, Inc. ("AirTran"). On September 15, 2011, Department approved the acquisition of AirTran by Southwest Airlines, Inc. ("Southwest") and the transfer of AirTran's certificate authority.¹ Subsequently, AirTran consolidated its operations with Southwest and ceased all operations in December 2014. Under these circumstances, and in accordance with section 204.7, the Department revokes the interstate certificate authority of AirTran.

Dockets DOT-OST-1998-4024, DOT-OST-2005-22228, and DOT-OST-2010-0163: By Order 98-7-6, issued July 8, 1998, the Department reissued the interstate certificate authority of Continental Airlines, Inc. ("Continental"). On February 3, 2011, Department approved the acquisition of Continental by

¹ See Order 2011-11-17, issued September 15, 2011, in Docket DOT-OST-2011-0051.

United Airlines, Inc. (“United”) and the transfer of Continental’s certificate authority.² Subsequently, Continental consolidated its operations with United and ceased all operations in March 2012. Under these circumstances, and in accordance with section 204.7, the Department revokes the interstate certificate authority of Continental.³

Dockets DOT-OST-1998-4024, DOT-OST-2005-22228, DOT-OST-2005-22578, and DOT-OST-2013-0082: By Order 98-7-6, issued July 8, 1998, the Department reissued the interstate certificate authority of US Airways, Inc. (“US Airways”). On November 19, 2014, Department approved the acquisition of US Airways by American Airlines, Inc. (“American”) and the transfer of US Airways’ certificate authority.⁴ Subsequently, U.S. Airways consolidated its operations with American and ceased all operations in October 2015. Under these circumstances, and in accordance with section 204.7, the Department revokes the interstate certificate authority of U.S. Airways.⁵

Dockets DOT-OST-2005-23307 and DOT-OST-2016-0099: By Order 2007-8-17, issued August 17, 2007, the Department reissued the interstate certificate authority of Virgin America, Inc. (“Virgin America”). On June 20, 2017, the Department approved the acquisition of Virgin America by Alaska Airlines, Inc. (“Alaska Airlines”) and the transfer of Virgin America’s certificate authority.⁶ Subsequently, Virgin America consolidated its operations with Alaska Airlines and ceased all operations in April 2018. Under these circumstances, and in accordance with section 204.7, the Department revokes the interstate certificate authority of Virgin America.

This Order is issued under authority redelegated pursuant to 49 CFR § 1.25a(b)(6)(ii)(A).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. Effective as of the date of this Order, the Department revokes the interstate certificate authorities of AirTran, Continental Airlines, US Airways, and Virgin America as described in the text of this Order.
2. The Department will serve a copy of this Order on the persons listed in Attachment A.

By:

Daniel J. Edwards
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs

An electronic version of this document is available at:
<http://www.regulations.gov>

² See Order 2011-3-14, issued February 3, 2011, in Docket DOT-OST-2010-0163.

³ By this Order, we revoke only the interstate certificate authority issued to Continental. Revocation of a foreign certificate is subject to Presidential review under 49 U.S.C. § 41307 and will be handled in a separate order.

⁴ See Order 2014-11-13, issued November 19, 2014, in Docket DOT-OST-2013-0082.

⁵ By this Order, we revoke only the interstate certificate authority issued to U.S. Airways. Revocation of a foreign certificate is subject to Presidential review under 49 U.S.C. § 41307 and will be handled in a separate order.

⁶ See Order 2017-6-13, issued June 20, 2017, in Docket DOT-OST-2016-0099.

SERVICE LIST

TANEESHA MARSHALL
ASSISTANT CHIEF COUNSEL
AVIATION LITIGATION
FAA SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
1701 COLUMBIA AVE

OFFICE OF AIRLINE INFORMATION
DOT/RSPA/BTS E-36
1200 NEW JERSEY AVE SE
WASHINGTON DC 20590

molly.wilkinson@aa.com
brent.alex@aa.com
steve.morrissey@united.com
dan.weiss@united.com

DAVID LUSK
CERTIFICATION SECTION MANAGER
FAA AFS-900
45005 AVIATION DRIVE SUITE 131
DULLES VA 20166

KIM EDWARDS
TECHNICAL PROGRAMS
FAA AFS 260
222 WEST 7TH AVE #14
ANCHORAGE AK 99513

DAVID HEFFERMAN
COUNSEL FOR ALASKA AIRLINES INC
COZEN OCONNOR
1200 19TH ST NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

LESLIE ABBOTT
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES
1201 PENNSYLVANIA AVE STE 550
WASHINGTON DC 20004