

SECTION III. OPERATION CERTIFICATES

National Air Transport

Article 15. No airline company may undertake to render services without a valid operating certificate, by means of which the Board of Civil Aviation authorizes it to render such services. Nevertheless, companies presently operating in the country may continue to render the same services they are giving over air routes approved by the Board during the four months commencing from the date of publication of the respective regulations; within this period they must apply to the Board for the corresponding certificate.

Article 16. Application for operating certificates shall contain the information and proof of service and safety required by the air regulations.

Article 17. The Board shall order published in the *Diario Oficial* the applications for operating certificates which it receives. Within twenty days following said publication, any person may support or oppose in writing the issuance of the certificate requested, and may also be present at the public hearing which must be given with respect to each application, on the date indicated in the *Diario Oficial*.

Article 18. Within fifteen days following the public hearing, the Board shall decide on each application and, as the case may be, issue the requested certificate, wholly or partially. It shall grant it if it finds the applicant capable and competent, and in a position to render the transport services in an adequate measure of efficiency and safety as well as in compliance with the provisions of this law and regulations issued thereunder. Transport service may be authorized if the certificate is required on the basis of public convenience and necessity. Otherwise, the application shall be refused. Operating certificates may be issued for temporary services.

Article 19. Where an operating certificate has been requested within four months following publication of the respective regulation by a company which has been rendering satisfactory services of air transport under a contract or authorization still in force, the Board, without further evidentiary proceedings, shall issue such certificate in accordance with the routes over which the company is operating.

Article 20. Regardless of the provisions of the preceding article, any of the companies referred to therein which are rendering services within the country may request, within four months following publication of the respective regulations, that the routes of all companies rendering local services be revised, including its own, based on reasons of public interest. When an application of this type has been filed, the Board shall proceed as indicated in Article 17 of this law, and decide to agree thereto if public necessity and convenience so require. In the absence of such conditions the application shall be denied. The Board, on its own volition, may generally revise all routes, if the possible interest requires such action.

Article 21. Certificates authorizing air transport services shall specify: the terminal points, as well as the intermediate ones, if any, between which the airline may render services, and the type and frequency of service which it will render. There shall be stipulated therein, in addition to the rights granted by the certificate, any condi-