

## Evidence of Economic Authority Request

Department of Transportation (DOT) economic authority means that DOT has given you the authority to operate an interstate or foreign passenger service. Economic authority becomes effective when the FAA has issued an operating certificate and operations specifications.

It takes a minimum of 4 months for DOT to process your application. However, you cannot apply until you develop a viable business plan that demonstrates your fitness as an air carrier (i.e., demonstrates that you have identified key management personnel, obtained funds to meet DOT's financial fitness criteria, determined an operational proposal, and resolved any history of safety violations or consumer fraud).

DOT may dismiss or reject incomplete or poorly prepared applications. To help you prepare your application for DOT economic authority, refer to the DOT information packet, [\*How to Become a Certificated Air Carrier\*](#). Pay particular attention to common mistakes identified throughout the document.

If you are applying for **Economic Authority** as a corporation or limited liability company (LLC), the DOT will require you to submit copies of the Certificate Incorporation by the state, citizenship of the voting members, legal documents related to operating as a DBA (doing business as) name. The FAA also needs copies of these documents to ensure accurate data entry in FAA databases.

There are two phases that require Economic Authority documentation:

The first step is in Phase 2 – Formal Application Phase where the applicant must submit the evidence of economic authority request with the **Formal Application Checklist** at least 30 calendar days prior to the formal application meeting. This needs to be done to move past Phase 2 Gate.

The second step is in Phase 4, (Phase 4 Gate Prior to Proving Tests) where the applicant must confirm the **Show Cause Order**, or in the case of a part 135 applicant applying for part 121 authority, a **Final Order**, has been issued by the DOT. This must be accomplished prior to moving past Phase 4 Gate Prior to Proving Tests.