

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ORDER NO. 12,217

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served November 3, 2009

COUPLES, LLC, Trading as COUPLES ) Case No. MP-2009-134  
LIMOUSINES, Suspension and )  
Investigation of Revocation of )  
Certificate No. 1417 )

This matter is before the Commission on respondent's response to Order No. 12,190, served October 13, 2009.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Under the Compact, a WMATC carrier may not engage in transportation subject to the Compact if the carrier's certificate of authority is not "in force."<sup>1</sup> A certificate of authority is not valid unless the holder is in compliance with the Commission's insurance requirements.<sup>2</sup>

Commission Regulation No. 58 requires respondent to insure the revenue vehicles operated under Certificate No. 1417 for a minimum of \$1.5 million in combined-single-limit liability coverage and maintain on file with the Commission at all times proof of coverage in the form of a WMATC Certificate of Insurance and Policy Endorsement (WMATC Insurance Endorsement) for each policy comprising the minimum.

Certificate No. 1417 was rendered invalid on October 13, 2009, when the \$1.5 million primary WMATC Insurance Endorsement on file for respondent was cancelled without replacement. Order No. 12,190 noted the automatic suspension of Certificate No. 1417 pursuant to Regulation No. 58-12, directed respondent to cease transporting passengers for hire under Certificate No. 1417, and gave respondent thirty days to replace the terminated endorsement and pay the \$50 late fee due under Regulation No. 67-03(c) or face revocation of Certificate No. 1417.

Respondent paid the late fee on November 3, 2009, and submitted a \$1.5 million primary WMATC Insurance Endorsement on October 23, 2009, but the effective date of the new endorsement is October 23, 2009, instead of October 13, 2009.

**II. ORDER TO LIFT SUSPENSION AND CONTINUE INVESTIGATION**

Regulation No. 58-14 provides that:

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<sup>1</sup> Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 6(a).

<sup>2</sup> Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 7(g).

If a carrier's operating authority is suspended under Regulation No. 58-12 and the effective date of a later-filed replacement Endorsement falls after the automatic suspension date, the carrier must verify timely cessation of operations in accordance with Commission Rule No. 28 and corroborate the verification with client statements and/or copies of pertinent business records, as directed by Commission order.

In accordance with Regulation No. 58-14, respondent will be directed to submit a statement verifying cessation of operations as of October 13, 2009. The statement shall be corroborated by copies of respondent's pertinent business records.

Inasmuch as respondent has paid the late fee under Regulation No. 67-03(c) and reestablished compliance with Regulation No. 58, we will lift the suspension.<sup>3</sup>

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the suspension of Certificate No. 1417 is hereby lifted.

2. That within thirty days from the date of this order, respondent shall submit an affidavit stating whether respondent operated during the period beginning October 13, 2009, and ending on the date of this order.

3. That within thirty days from the date of this order, respondent shall produce any and all books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, contracts, agreements, and other records and documents, including any and all stored electronically, that are within respondent's possession, custody or control and which relate to the transportation of passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District during the period beginning, August 1, 2009, and ending on the date of this order, including, but not limited to any and all:

- a. customer contracts and invoices;
- b. calendars and itineraries; and
- c. bank and credit card statements.

FOR THE COMMISSION:



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<sup>3</sup> See *In re Epps Transp. Co., Inc.*, No. MP-08-124, Order No. 11,613 (Oct. 6, 2008) (lifting suspension as of date of order).

William S. Morrow, Jr.  
Executive Director