

that the carrier has undergone a major contraction.

(2) If the current reported level is 93 percent or more of each of the carrier's preceding 12 monthly levels, the Department will not find that the carrier has undergone a major contraction.

(3) If neither of the conditions described in paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this section is present, the Department will ascertain by special report from the carrier, and add to the reported employment levels, the number of positions that were vacant in each of the relevant months as a result of terminations for cause. If the resulting figure for the current month is 92.5 percent or less of the resulting figure for any of the preceding 12 months, the Department will find that the carrier has undergone a major contraction. Otherwise, the Department will not make such a finding.

#### § 314.21 Advance determinations.

(a) If circumstances indicate that a major contraction will occur, the Department may make an advance determination of a major contraction without waiting for the regular monthly computation set forth in § 314.20. The Department will consider whether to make an advance determination either on its own initiative or upon receipt of an application from an employee who has been deprived of employment or adversely affected with respect to compensation, or a representative of one or more such employees.

(b) An application under this section shall be titled "Application for Advance Determination of Major Contraction." It shall contain the information set forth in § 314.11 (b)(1) through (b)(6) and an explanation of the applicant's basis for claiming that a major contraction will occur, including all supporting evidence available to the applicant. A person may consolidate an application under this section with an application under § 314.11 for determination of a qualifying dislocation.

(c) The Department will terminate an advance determination of major contraction whenever it finds that the predicted major contraction has not occurred or will not occur.

#### § 314.22 Notice of major contraction.

Upon finding a major contraction under § 314.20, or making or terminating an advance determination under § 314.21, the Department will publish the finding in the FEDERAL REGISTER and send written notice of it to the persons listed in § 314.14.

### PART 323—TERMINATIONS, SUSPENSIONS, AND REDUCTIONS OF SERVICE

#### Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. Chapters 401, 411, 417.

SOURCE: Docket No. 82, 50 FR 2430, Jan. 16, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 323.1 Applicability.

This part applies to certificated air carriers who terminate or suspend service to a point, or in a market, and to all air carriers who terminate, suspend, or reduce service below the level of essential air service under 49 U.S.C. 41731-41742.

[Docket No. 82, 50 FR 2430, Jan. 16, 1985, as amended by Doc. No. OST-96-1269, 61 FR 19165, May 1, 1996]

#### § 323.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

*Certificated carrier* means a direct air carrier holding authority to provide air transportation granted by the Department of Transportation ("DOT") or the