

12PRL04

IFALPA supports ICAO DG Panel moves to reduce threat from Lithium battery shipments

Montreal 13 February: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) salutes the work of the Dangerous Goods Panel of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in advancing new safety standards for the transport of lithium battery consignments.

The recommendations, which will now be considered by ICAO's Air Navigation Commission, include new standards designed to ensure that shipments of lithium batteries are labeled as dangerous goods, that shippers receive training in correctly preparing packages, airlines perform an acceptance check and inspect the packages before loading, and that pilots are notified of their location on the aircraft. Further the Panel is calling for these standards to come into force by 1 January 2013.

Commenting on the announcement IFALPA President Capt. Don Wykoff said "IFALPA's Dangerous Goods Committee, led by F/O Mark Rogers have been campaigning for new standards designed to enhance safeguarding of the travelling public for many years and to see this work coming to fruition is great news. It's now vital that the Air Navigation Commission approve these recommendations without delay. As permanent observer to the Air Navigation Commission IFALPA will do all it can to make it happen."

Notes to Editors: The proposed Standards will specify that large shipments of lithium batteries are labeled as dangerous goods, shippers receive training regarding correctly preparing packages of lithium batteries, airlines perform an acceptance check and inspect packages before loading, and pilots are notified of the location of lithium battery shipments aboard their aircraft.

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations.

See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

For more information contact Gideon Ewers, IFALPA Media Communications Officer +44 1932 579041 or on gideonewers@ifalpa.org