

IFALPA Supports ICAO's Prohibition of Lithium-Ion Batteries as Cargo on Passenger Flights

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, Canada – The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) supports the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) important decision this week to prohibit lithium-ion batteries as freight on passenger aircraft, but feels more needs to be done to address the safety of shipments on cargo aircraft. Both lithium-ion and lithium-metal batteries continue to be permitted in unlimited quantities on cargo aircraft, despite the demonstrated risk these shipments pose.

“We are extremely gratified that ICAO has acted on this long-standing safety concern, moving to protect passengers and crews from the dangers posed by shipments of lithium-ion batteries”, said Mark Rogers, IFALPA's Dangerous Goods Committee Chairman. The prohibition was first proposed by IFALPA to the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel in 2009, and again in 2015. “The risk these batteries pose is the same regardless of the aircraft type, however, and we now call on ICAO to extend the same protections to cargo aircraft”, Rogers continued.

IFALPA supports a long-term solution to develop packaging that will ensure lithium batteries can be shipped safely on both passenger and cargo aircraft, and is committed to working with ICAO and the SAE International to develop the appropriate standards. We urge ICAO to continue this important work, and to extend the prohibition to cargo aircraft until this standard is developed and fully implemented for all lithium battery shipments.

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Note to Editors: 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 promote the highest level of aviation safety worldwide and to be the global advocate of the piloting profession; providing representation, services and support to both its Member Associations and the aviation industry.

See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

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