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Media Release

Cargolux temporarily bans lithium ion battery shipments

Luxembourg, 28 April 2015 – Cargolux Airlines has decided to temporarily impose a ban on the transport of lithium ion battery (UN3480) shipments starting on 1 May 2015. The decision comes after reviewing new information released by the FAA, Boeing and ICAO regarding the effectiveness of the on-board fire extinguishing systems in case of lithium ion battery fires and the temperatures that such fires can develop.

With this decision, Cargolux joins other major passenger and freight carriers in following the IATA recommendation to risk assess the transportation of such batteries and concluding that the current risk to continue flying such shipments is not acceptable. Shipments of lithium metal batteries (UN3090) have already been banned by Cargolux following a dedicated risk assessment conducted in previous years.

This ban does not apply to lithium ion batteries packed with or contained in equipment (UN 3481).

To lift the ban as soon as possible, Cargolux will assess different options to identify if technology exists or if new technology can be developed in order to make the transportation of bulk shipments of lithium batteries safe.

About Cargolux Airlines International

Cargolux, based in Luxembourg, is Europe's leading all-cargo airline with a modern and efficient fleet composed of 12 Boeing 747-8 freighters and 11 Boeing 747-400 freighters. The Cargolux worldwide network covers 90 destinations, some 70 of which are served on scheduled all-cargo flights. The company has more than 85 offices in over 50 countries, and operates an extensive global trucking network to more than 250 destinations as well as full and part-charter services. Cargolux also offers third-party maintenance at its modern two-bay maintenance hangar in Luxembourg. The company is specialized in B747 line and hangar maintenance up to and including C-Checks. It offers a range of specialized maintenance services and holds line maintenance approval for B777 aircraft. Cargolux employs over 1,500 staff worldwide.

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