



The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA, the largest pilots union in North America) recently called for the US Department of Transportation to issue a temporary ban on shipment of lithium batteries as cargo on both all-cargo and passenger aircraft.

The National Transportation Safety Board called for lithium batteries to be classified as dangerous goods following an incident in 2006 in which a shipment of lithium batteries caught fire aboard a UPS DC-8 freighter in flight. The crew landed safely in Philadelphia and escaped with minor injuries, but the plane was heavily damaged and most of the cargo was destroyed. Since then, the FAA has documented 26 other incidents involving lithium batteries, including three in the past two months. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA, a part of the DOT) says it is working on a rulemaking to regulate lithium batteries as dangerous goods, but ALPA feels the pace of that work is too slow and has called on the PHMSA to “immediately issue a temporary prohibition on the carriage of lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries as cargo on passenger and all-cargo aircraft,” with the ban to remain in place until the rulemaking process is concluded.”

Your AFA has been and continues to be a staunch advocate of aviation safety. We would like your thoughts on the subject by taking a few minutes to answer the following questions. All individual responses will be held in strictest confidence. We do ask that you provide your name and contact information so we might follow-up with additional questions.

Your assistance would be appreciated in completing this survey by September 10. Thank you.

Please click her to access the survey:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kInurKLwX95pJ9iLniFOAO_3d_3d

--

Brandon Fried, Executive Director
The Airforwards Association
750 National Press Building
529 14th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20045
202-393-2818

Mark Your Calendars to Save the Date for AirCargo 2010 March 14-16, 2010 at the Omni ChampionsGate, Orlando Florida.

Follow us on Twitter!: AfAExecDirector