

# IATA WORLD CARGO SYMPOSIUM

Lima, Peru  
10 – 12 March 2026

## LITHIUM BATTERY FORUM AGENDA

Host Airline



**Thursday, 12 March**

**09h00 – 09h10**

**Welcome**

The forum will be opened with a brief welcome and introduction that frames the key themes guiding today's conversation, including the context for the forum's speakers. Their insights on the past, present and future of lithium battery safety will build toward a dynamic panel discussion, where we will connect ideas, explore emerging questions, and highlight practical implications for the audience.

**Michael Cowlshaw, Manager Dangerous Goods, Qatar Airways**

**09h10 – 09h30**

**Opening Address**

**A Hazardous History of Transporting Lithium Batteries**

Legislation usually develops in response to emerging issues, but if the regulations regarding the transport of lithium batteries seem to be forever changing. Will we ever get it right? This session will explore the regulatory evolution in transporting lithium batteries from an airline perspective and the emerging concerns that need to be addressed in the near future.

**Trevor Howard, Vice President, Safety, Standards & Regulatory Compliance, Emirates SkyCargo**

**09h30 – 10h00**

**Keynote Presentation**

A new report by UL Standards & Engagement explores why rising lithium battery incidents may stem not from a single failure, but from systemic gaps in quality, compliance, oversight, and lack of geographic coordination - leaving carriers, downstream actors, and end users to manage risks they did not create.

**Emily Brimsek, Ph.D. Senior Manager, Qualitative Insights, UL Standards & Engagement**

**10h00 – 10h30**

**Powering Tomorrow: New Battery Tests to Deliver a Safer Future**

Existing tests for classifying lithium and sodium ion batteries focus on their ability to be transported safely in normal conditions of transport. That doesn't help where conditions are abnormal. This presentation will look at the current work of the UN and the proposed tests that assess the hazards in thermal runaway.

**Remko Dardennes, Head of Air Operations, Belgian Civil Aviation Authority**

**10h30 – 10h55**

## **A Panacea for Battery Safety?**

Why does lithium-battery safety remain such a stubborn challenge. What drives the assumption that safety is someone else's responsibility? Will future UN tests have a material impact in a world where there is strong supply and demand for cheap, non-compliant batteries. Let's expose the gap between regulation and reality. Join the speakers as they unpack how these forces collide — and what it will take to keep dangerous batteries out of our homes, workplaces, and supply chains.

Moderator:

**Michael Cowlshaw, Manager Dangerous Goods, Qatar Airways**

Panelists:

**Trevor Howard, Vice President, Safety, Standards & Regulatory Compliance, Emirates SkyCargo**

**Emily Brimsek, Ph.D. Senior Manager, Qualitative Insights, UL Standards & Engagement**

**Remko Dardennes, Head of Air Operations, Belgian Civil Aviation Authority**

**10h55 – 11h00**

## **Closing Remarks**

**11h00 – 11h30**

**NETWORKING BREAK – WCS EXHIBITION HALL**

**11h30 – 13h00**

## **WCS 2026 Closing Plenary**

**13h00 – 14h00**

**NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK – WCS EXHIBITION HALL**