

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 Cowlishaw, 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 Cowlishaw, 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