

## **ICAO's overall plan for the safe carriage of lithium batteries by air**

**Lynn McGuigan**  
**ICAO**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1944 with the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. ICAO works with its 193 Member States to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) contained in nineteen Annexes to its Convention in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector. These SARPs are used by ICAO Member States to ensure civil aviation operations and regulations conform to global norms allowing aviation's global network to operate safely and reliably in every region of the world.

The safe transport of lithium batteries by air has been the subject of intense discussion within ICAO and its expert technical bodies for many years. Lithium batteries are classified as dangerous goods for transport purposes, and as such are subject to Annex 18 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation — *The Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air*. The potential for a fire involving lithium batteries to overwhelm an airplane's safety protection features led to the ICAO decision to introduce a prohibition on the transport of lithium batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft until controls are in place which establish an acceptable level of safety. This presentation will provide background information on this decision and an overview of ICAO's plan for the safe transport of cargo, including lithium batteries.