

Lufthansa Cargo

PIONEER FOR CO₂-NEUTRAL CARGO FLIGHTS

At the end of 2020, Lufthansa Cargo and its partner DB Schenker, completed the world's first CO₂-neutral cargo flight between Frankfurt and Shanghai, which enabled a scheduled operation of more than 100 of such flights until now. In addition, customers worldwide can book CO₂-neutrally transported shipments, either by purchasing Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) or by investing in certified climate protection projects. However, political support is needed for aviation to achieve complete CO₂-neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

The use of state-of-the-art, low-emission aircraft is currently the greatest lever for the reduction of CO₂ emissions in the sky. See Lufthansa Cargo: In recent years, the airline has completely renewed its long-haul fleet with Boeing 777 freighters. Overall, it has reduced its specific CO₂ emissions by more than 50 percent over the past 25 years.

Synthetic fuels are crucial

Besides fleet modernization, the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) is essential to the path to CO₂-neutral aviation. Since kerosene of biogenic origin is only available to a limited extent, the development of synthetic kerosene must be ramped up. The Lufthansa Group is setting priorities here, for example as a partner and pilot customer of the world's first power-to-liquid (PtL) plant in Werlte, Germany. From there, Lufthansa Cargo and its freight forwarding partner Kühne+Nagel purchase around 20 metric tons of synthetic kerosene per year.

Maintaining competitiveness

Nevertheless, the aviation industry cannot manage the fuel supply transformation on its own. The reason: future PtL kerosene will be up to ten times more expensive than conventional kerosene. Policymakers are called upon to massively incentivize industrial PtL production. The price of the currently available biogenic fuel is about five times higher than

conventional jet fuel. Due to this price difference, it is imperative that a SAF blending mandate, as is currently planned in the EU climate protection package Fit for 55, is designed in a competition-neutral way. Otherwise, airlines will have a financial incentive to uplift fuel outside the EU, where no SAF blending mandate exists. This would lead to carbon leakage and considerable competitive disadvantages for European airlines.

Enabling digitalization

The use of innovative technologies also leads to noticeable CO₂ savings. Lufthansa Cargo is investing heavily in innovation. For example, the airline will equip the surface of its 11 B777 freighters with the AeroSHARK durable bionic film to optimize the aerodynamics. The annual CO₂ reduction amounts to more than 10,000 metric tons. Since 2022, Lufthansa Cargo transports shipments exclusively with electronic air waybills (eAWBs) on all eAWB feasible trade lanes. As a result, the airline has saved around 50 metric tons of paper and over 20 metric tons of CO₂ annually by reducing the weight on board the aircraft. In order to drive digital transformation and achieve paperless air cargo transportation, the German authorities also have to ensure the fully digital exchange of the comprehensive cargo information and swiftly implement the EU regulation „eFTI“.

Already more than 100 CO₂e-neutral cargo flights operated

Since November 2020, Lufthansa Cargo and DB Schenker have been the world's first air cargo provider to operate completely CO₂e-neutral cargo flights between Frankfurt and Shanghai. Among other means, the fuel requirement is entirely covered by SAF. In addition, customers worldwide can book CO₂-neutral shipments, either by purchasing SAF or by investing in certified climate protection projects.

