



**THE FUTURE
IS NOW**

Sustainability • Efficiency • Digitalisation



**ATHENS 2023
CONFERENCE**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

Welcome Reception 19:00- 23:00

Kick off the annual ULD CARE conference with an opportunity to mix and meet with delegates and colleagues from across the ULD community.

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Morning Session 09:00-12:30

The Future is Now.

The vision of ULD CARE is that regardless of location or process, any ULD shall, at all times and by all parties, be handled, stored, transported and otherwise used in a responsible manner by persons who are suitably trained, managed and supported such that ULD assets may be operated at all times in a manner that is both efficient and meets all regulatory requirements. Now more than ever, as the airline industry is challenged with post-pandemic problems such as labour shortages, ULD CARE's commitment to its vision remains as strong as ever.

As we move into this post-pandemic era ULD CARE sees tremendous opportunity to deliver real change to this critical aspect of air cargo operations through delivering Digitalisation, Efficiency and Sustainability.

In this opening session delegates will hear of the progress made since we last met, hear how ULD CARE initiatives are delivering long overdue improvements to the manner in which ULD operate.

Networking Lunch 12:30-14:30 - *shared with Air Cargo*

Handling event in the exhibition area.

Afternoon Session 14:30-18:00

Sustainability

Sustainability is front and centre for the entire aviation industry and ULD operations have no choice but to play their part. And there is no shortage of opportunities for our community to play its part. Indeed, the ULD OEM side has already achieved a great deal with its efforts to drive down the tare weight of containers, pallets, and nets over the past couple of decades, saving massive amounts of fuel burn and the associated CO2 emissions. But a great deal more can be and must be done to optimise sustainability in ULD operations and this is where the ULD CARE can support industry initiatives to cut down on the huge amount of waste that goes on each and every day around ULD operations.

Simultaneously there are already a number of notable initiatives within the ULD manufacturing and maintenance industry to recycle or repurpose ULD that have reached the end of useful life.

ULD - a knowledge industry

The commonly held view across the air cargo industry that any fool knows how to use a ULD continues to dominate industry practices despite the best efforts of both IATA and ULD CARE to promote a better understanding. Delivering formal in person training is a huge cost and logistics challenge, but the costs of failing to step up to this challenge continue to climb, resulting in continual failings to meet the required safety standards while also leading to excessive damages to ULD through improper handling practises. ULD CARE does not have the resources to conduct its own training but can and does support this challenge through its solutions such as ULD Explained (<https://uldcare.com/uld-explained-book/>) , ULD 60 Seconds (<https://www.uld60seconds.com/about>) and the ULD CARE Code of Conduct (<https://uldcare.com/uld-care-code-conduct/>) . ULD CARE continues to work with our associates in Airport College (<https://www.airportcollege.com>) to create and promote effective, relevant, deliverable educational aids.

Evening Networking dinner in conjunction with ACH in exhibition area.

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

09:00-11:45

Cargo's digital & Environmental Transformation, Financial benefits yet to realised.

Join with ACH delates in this session to share this critical conversation, during which Bob Rogers will have the opportunity to present ULD CARE's E-UCR project's benefits to the combined audience.

11:45-13:30 - LUNCH

13:00-14:30

ULD are first and foremost a safety device, initially in restraint but increasingly with a critical role in fire containment.

No ULD CARE conference would be complete without a discussion on the ever-present issue of safety. As aviation steadily recovers to its pre pandemic levels the need to manage cargo operations in a safe and compliant manner is a huge challenge. Two areas stand out, Restraint and Fire Containment.

Restraint, particularly the use of cargo straps is a major pain point in the industry. Its more than a few years since the TSO C172 standard for strap design and manufacture came to pass, and it is probably correct to assume that the majority of straps in use today are TSO C172 approved. But big questions remain as to how well these straps are being used in day-to-day cargo operations, particularly around special cargo operations where large quantities of straps may be used to restrain a single large and/or heavy item. In this digital age it seems appropriate to use IT tech to assist this activity and ULD CARE will be showing off the latest developments in this area.

Fire Containment is another major pain point. It seems there are not solutions to the Lithium Battery fire risk coming from either the airframers or the packaging providers, leaving the ULD community to pick up the slack! And the challenges go beyond just meeting a specific standard, as when it comes to fire safety there is really no “finish line”, so designs will need to continuously evolve to meet newly identified risks. The other side of the coin is operating these expensive and quite complicated ULD requires a degree of education that is not always found in the operating environment. This will be an ever-present issue as the use of fire containment ULD becomes ever more prevalent and the ULD CARE community needs to rise to this challenge.

15:15-17:15

Delivering on our objectives.

As a trade association ULD CARE is possibly rather unusual, as it devotes considerable resources to developing and delivering practical solutions for the industry. Our roots lie in the operation of the IULDUG system, as relevant today as it was 5 decades ago, which was a technology leader at that time.

So, it is now more important than ever for ULD CARE to put its resources into remaining ahead of the curve in promoting digitalisation, sustainability, and efficiency for ULD operations across the entire industry.

As we come to the end of our annual gathering this session will define our objectives for the next 12 months, setting goals and ambitions that meet our mission and vision.

17:15-17:30

Closing remarks

19:00 - Networking Dinner co located *with Air Cargo Handling*