

Alaska Air Cargo introduces world's first converted 737-700 freighter



ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Sept. 26, 2017 [/PRNewswire/](#) -- Alaska Air Cargo today began a new chapter in its business, introducing the first converted Boeing 737-700 cargo aircraft. The aircraft is the first of its kind in the world and was converted from an all-passenger to an all-freight aircraft. The aircraft is entering commercial service today, carrying goods from Seattle to the state of Alaska.

"This one-of-a-kind aircraft marks the beginning of a new era at Alaska Airlines," said Wayne Newton, Alaska Airlines vice president of airport operations and customer service. "With an all-freight fleet, our cargo business is now a stand-alone operation, allowing us to better focus on the needs of our cargo customers."

The aircraft was converted over 19 months in Tel Aviv by Israel Aerospace Industries. Alaska pilots flew the converted plane from Tel Aviv to Belfast, Ireland on Sept. 6. From there, the plane touched down on U.S. soil in Bangor, Maine and continued on to Greensboro, North Carolina, for scheduled maintenance. The aircraft was painted in Victorville, California before arriving in Seattle.

Alaska will take delivery of two more converted 737-700 freighters, allowing the new, all-cargo fleet to carry 15 percent more capacity overall. Currently, Alaska operates one 737-400 freighter and four 737-400 combi aircraft, which carry both passengers and cargo. Alaska plans to retire its entire 737-400 combi fleet by Oct. 18.

"The new freighter will transform our cargo business and allow us to provide more efficient and consistent service," said Jason Berry, Alaska Air Cargo managing director. "Now we can move more freight than ever before, and optimize schedules to meet the needs of our cargo partners."

State of Alaska

Initially, the new fleet of all-freight aircraft will primarily serve the state of Alaska, and provide regular, scheduled service to 17 communities across the state. Independent of Alaska Airlines' passenger operation, Alaska Air Cargo will provide more scheduled freight service than any other carrier in the state, and connect

customers to 100 destinations across the airline's route network.

Freighter facts

- Nonstop range of 3,200 miles
- Maximum net payload of 42,000 pounds
- Though smaller in size, the 737-700 freighter can carry 10,000 more pounds of cargo per plane compared to Alaska's current 737-400 freighter.
- The registered tail number for Alaska's converted freighter is N627AS; aircraft N626AS and N625AS are currently undergoing the conversion process in Tel Aviv.

Editor's note: An image of the converted 737-700 freighter is available for download at www.alaskaair.com/newsroom.

Alaska Air Cargo transports more than 170 million pounds of cargo annually—including seafood, mail and freight—and operates the most extensive air cargo operation on the U.S. West Coast of any passenger airline.

Alaska Airlines, together with Virgin America and its regional partners, flies 40 million guests a year to 118 destinations with an average of 1,200 daily flights across the United States and to Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica and Cuba. With Alaska and [Alaska Global Partners](#), guests can earn and redeem miles on flights to more than 900 destinations worldwide. Alaska Airlines ranked "[Highest in Customer Satisfaction Among Traditional Carriers in North America](#)" in the J.D. Power North America Satisfaction Study for 10 consecutive years from 2008 to 2017. Learn more about Alaska's award-winning service and unmatched reliability at newsroom.alaskaair.com and blog.alaskaair.com. Alaska Airlines, Virgin America and Horizon Air are subsidiaries of Alaska Air Group (NYSE: ALK).

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