

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo's flower flow from Kenya now FlowerWatch approved.

18 June 2019, Schiphol – The Netherlands

During the International Flower Trade Expo (IFTEX) recently held in Nairobi, Kenya, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo (AFKLMP Cargo) announced it has received FlowerWatch accreditation for all the fresh flowers it ships from Nairobi to Schiphol Airport. AFKLMP Cargo is the first airline group to receive this proof of quality and standardisation. This is an important step towards further improvements in the global floriculture industry.

Cold-chain management has emerged in recent years as a vital success factor in the post-harvest life of fresh flowers. Temperature exposure during storage and transportation contributes to discolouring, wilting, poor flower opening, and premature ageing. The end result is reduced vase life, often by several days.

FlowerWatch has developed a fail-safe Quality Assurance system. This system does not just identify challenges in the cold chain, it actually helps to permanently fix them. The system's central concept is 'time temperature exposure', which is expressed in degree hours. This is the average temperature of your fresh flowers throughout transportation multiplied by the number of hours (1 degree hour = 1 hour x 1 degree Celsius). Every 500 degree hours reduces vase life by one day. The key to successful cold chain performance is to minimise the number of degree hours.

Mr. Eric Mauroux, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo's Global Head of Perishables Logistics explains: *"Like the pharmaceuticals sector, where steps have been taken to comply with manufacturers requirements, we recognise the necessity for the floriculture sector of moving towards a more efficient cool chain based on the key drivers of effective collaboration, innovation and data-sharing in order to comply with growers', importers' and retailers' requirements."*

"We are strongly committed to maintaining our position as a front-runner in the temperature-sensitive market. By continuously improving and investing in our cool chain, we are leading the industry by example, encouraging all actors to comply with food safety requirements, to increase shelf life and improve consumer experience. To support this ambition, we have launched a Cool Chain Programme with the objective of innovating our cool chain by focusing on infrastructure, processes, digital and IT, with dedication and supervision, as well as apron transportation."

“FlowerWatch is an innovative way for us to access our flower flow based on time-temperature exposure throughout the chain. This is another step towards standardisation, which improves the vase life of the flowers we carry out of Kenya. This accreditation is also a great achievement for all the stakeholders who embarked on this improvement programme with us.”*

“We expect more AFKLMP Cargo fresh-flower stations of origin (e.g. Quito and Bogotá) to become FlowerWatch certified in the coming months”, Eric Mauroux concludes.

*On a yearly basis, AFKLMP Cargo ships approximately 18,000 tonnes of fresh flowers from Kenya to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

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About Air France KLM Martinair Cargo

The Air France-KLM Group is a global airline group with a strong European base. Its main areas of business are passenger transport, cargo transport and aeronautical maintenance.

AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo is the Air France KLM Group's dedicated air cargo business. Our three airlines offer the industry more than 1,100 weekly frequencies to 124 destinations. In 2018, AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo transported 1.1 million tonnes of cargo. In addition to the Group's global network of passenger aircraft, we offer cargo main deck capacity on two Boeing 777 Freighters, four Boeing 747-400 Freighters and six Boeing 747-400 Combi aircraft.

Air France Cargo and KLM Cargo and our two main hubs (CDG and AMS) are IATA CEIV certified, providing service excellence to the pharmaceutical industry.

Air France-KLM Cargo is a member of SkyTeam Cargo (www.skyteamcargo.com) offering an even larger network coverage. Special partnerships include China Southern Cargo, Delta Cargo and Kenya Airways Cargo.

Please visit www.afklcargo.com for more information about AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo.

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