

SIA turns two B777-300ERs into temporary freighters

- A Monitor Desk Report

Date: 10 November, 2020



Dhaka: Singapore Airlines has modified two of its passenger Boeing 777-300ERs to carry freight in the cabins. These “freighters” will take on the increased focus in cargo operations amid this year’s drop in traveller demand.

According to reports, the first of the two conversions had hit the skies on November 5. The plane conducted a flight to Tokyo Narita from Singapore. Notably, all 264 of the passenger seats on the aircraft were not on board during this operation. Subsequently, the jet can now carry up to 12 per cent cargo.

The two modified 777s hold registration numbers 9V-SWN and 9V-SWM. The pair both arrived at Singapore Airlines’ facilities in 2008. Altogether, the airline has 27 777-300ERs within its holdings. However, 18 of the planes are currently parked. Therefore, it is a smart move by the airline to make some adaptations to its fleet. There is a newfound focus on cargo for airlines amid the global health crisis.

Travel restrictions and public concerns have caused a considerable drop in passenger activity this year. However, there is a greater emphasis on shipping activities in the new climate. So, the company is finding ways to make use of its widebody aircraft during this tough climate.

Reports say that Singapore Airlines will monitor the market before committing to more conversions. The firm could also use the planes on additional routes depending on requirements.

33 of the company's passenger planes are operating cargo-only flights. So, the airline will be making the most of the conversions' services with the extra space on board. One of the group's subsidiaries, Scoot, has also been making similar moves amid the temporary modification of two Airbus A320neos.

"In these unprecedented times, we will continue to remain nimble and respond swiftly to market needs," said the airline in a statement.