

Liège, 4 August 2025



MEDIA RELEASE

SWISSPORT STRENGTHENS GLOBAL COOL CHAIN OPERATIONS WITH LIÈGE'S FIRST PERISHABLE CENTER

Swissport has expanded its specialized cargo capabilities at Liège Airport with the opening of a dedicated perishable handling center, the only facility of its kind at the airport. Fully operational from 1 August, the temperature-controlled airside installation reinforces Swissport's flower corridor and advances Liège's role as a strategic European logistics hub.

Swissport, the global leader in airport ground services and air cargo handling, is advancing its strategy to provide tailored infrastructure for specialized cargo segments, including perishables and eCommerce, with the launch of a dedicated perishable handling center at Liège Airport. Located airside, the purpose-built facility is designed exclusively for the seamless throughput of Unit Load Devices (ULDs) carrying temperature-sensitive goods. With precise climate control between 2°C and 8°C and capacity for 40 ULDs—the equivalent of a full freighter load—it ensures seamless cool chain protection and significantly reduces processing time for critical shipments.

This new cool facility complements Swissport's third cargo terminal at Liège, inaugurated in April 2024, which expanded the company's total footprint at the airport to 27,000 square meters. It follows recent capability upgrades at major cargo hubs across Europe, including Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Madrid, Johannesburg, and Cape Town, reinforcing Swissport's commitment to supporting specialized cargo growth across the region.

"This specialized perishable center demonstrates our commitment to tailored cargo solutions that meet the evolving needs of global logistics," said Wilfried Jans, Managing Director of Swissport Belgium. "It positions us as a key partner for temperature-sensitive products, particularly high-value perishables like cut flowers moving through our growing global network."

BOOSTING COOL CHAIN SPEED AND RELIABILITY

Swissport continues to invest in cold chain infrastructure across its global network, with Liège now playing a key role in connecting origin and destination points in its expanding cool chain corridor. The company is now one of the few ground handlers globally to offer specialized temperature-controlled capabilities at both ends of the supply chain, delivering end-to-end protection for time- and temperature-sensitive shipments.

The facility's strategic airside location enables direct aircraft-to-cold-storage transfer, eliminating intermediate steps that could compromise product integrity. This setup minimizes the risk of temperature excursions, maintains product freshness, and accelerates delivery times for both imports and exports.

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Import flows in particular will benefit, as the center offers secure cold storage for goods in transit, ready for final delivery by truck across Europe, with a strong focus on the Dutch flower market.

"With this investment, we're strengthening Liège's role in our global cool chain network," said Dirk Goovaerts, Global Cargo Chair and CEO of Swissport's CEMEA region. "By extending our pharma-handling expertise to perishable flows, Swissport now provides the entire Liège community access to a temperature-controlled flower corridor between Nairobi and Amsterdam. It also complements our growing role in eCommerce logistics, where Liège continues to attract top global players."

Swissport has been serving cargo airlines at Liège Airport since 2001 and offers a comprehensive suite of services covering general and special cargo handling, temperature-controlled handling, hub handling, express services, forwarder handling, and specialized perishable handling. In 2024, a dedicated team of 300 Swissport professionals successfully handled 400,000 tons of air cargo and serviced over 3,850 freighters at Liège, highlighting the company's growing scale and relevance at this strategic hub.

Commented [JW1]: 3850 Freighter Flights in 20245

In 2024, Swissport International AG provided best-in-class airport ground services for some 247 million airline passengers (2023: 232 million), welcomed 5.9 million lounge guests (2023: 5.7 million), and handled roughly 5 million tons of air freight (2023: 4.7 million) at 117 air cargo centers worldwide. Several of its warehouses have been certified for pharmaceutical logistics by IATA's CEIV Pharma and by the British MHRA. At the end of December 2024, the world's leader in airport ground services and air cargo handling, with currently around 65,000 employees, was active at 279 airports in 45 countries on six continents.

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