
Reefer container design first to pass intermodal test

Unit45 has launched a 45ft diesel-electric reefer container that enables perishable goods to move intermodally throughout Europe. The unit meets the requirements for the intermodal transport of perishable foodstuffs over distances of more than 150km, said the Netherlands-based 45ft container specialist.

“Although the agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the special equipment to be used for such carriage, known as the ATP agreement, was drawn up by the Inland Transport Committee of the UN Economic Committee for Europe in 1970-71, so far no-one has offered a container design that is capable of meeting

ATP standards. Consequently, this market has been dominated by road trailers,” said Jan Koolen, MD of Unit45.

“Now that more reefer containers are being moved by rail over long distances, for example from northern Europe to Italy, our customers have been pushing us to solve the technical problems associated with meeting the ATP requirements to develop a container that could achieve the ATP’s FRC classification. This requires a high level of insulation and enables goods to be transported within a temperature range of -20C to +20C.”

Koolen believes more transport operators will switch from road to rail and sea transport. “Now we are providing the



The Unit45 box meets ATP requirements

tool that will allow more perishable foodstuffs to move intermodally, whether that be road/rail or road/rail/shortsea. We expect interest to be strong,” he said.