

Chill in the Chunnel



Temperature-controlled rail freight has returned to the Channel Tunnel after a gap of several years. Earlier this month a cargo of melons from Italy for major food manufacturer Bakkavör was shipped in a Unit45 integral reefer as part of the regular Norfolkline

Quality of the melons on outturn was reportedly very good

intermodal service from Novara to Hams Hall in the UK.

Full track and trace for the trial was provided and the temperature was continuously monitored. The

melons were found on arrival to satisfy the stringent quality checks of the customer.

The train is managed on behalf of Norfolkline by Freight Europe UK Ltd, an affiliate of SNCF Fret. Train operators along the route comprised private operator Crossrail (Italy and Switzerland), SNCF Fret, Eurotunnel's Europorte 2 and Colas Rail. The latter is a new name on the UK intermodal scene, but it already cooperates with Freight Europe UK in steel traffic flows from Immingham to the West Midlands and from Belgium to Burton-on-Trent.

"We are committed to reducing the carbon footprint associated with our operations. This trial represents a small but very significant step forward," said Bakkavör logistics manager Neil Horner