

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

# Rethinking Refrigerated Containment

*- a new vision of refrigerated exports*

William Nicholson  
MDES 2015

**Rethinking Refrigeration**  
*a new vision of refrigeration*

---

WILLIAM NICHOLSON MDES



new, lucrative Chinese market. In this project comprises a flat shipping container system which increases space efficiency and improves security when product. Internal packing modules are designed to fit the container dimensions.

This project presents a vision of how New Zealand could work smarter to capitalise on a lucrative global opportunity, by offering an alternative to the current logistics and transport infrastructure of refrigerated exports.

## ABSTRACT

With the aid of a world-first FTA (Free-Trade Agreement) (Barber, 2014), New Zealand frozen lamb exports to China are rapidly growing (Meat Industry Association of New Zealand, 2013). However, the current transportation and logistical systems used to export this product were developed over 37 years ago (Chua, 1978). With significant growth in the Chinese market, the current systems are inefficient and

Thank you to the Ken & Elizabeth Powell Bursary, Massey's Master Scholarship and Tulia Moss for financial support. Thanks to my supervisors Tulia Moss, Patricia and Matthijs Sijjee for your fee support and invaluable insight a broad range of fields and people. A special thank you to James and Sam McCafferty for your support, time, advice and design expertise. Finally, Lauren Wepa for your support.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**LIST OF FIGURES (SOURCES)**

**Figure 1. pg. XVI Global commercial shipping traffic.**

Hengl, T. (2008). Commercial shipping density. Retrieved from <https://www.globalmarinelogistics.com/globalmarine/impacts>

**Figure 2. pg.8 Current issues of space efficiency and ability to clean are environmental.**

Crystal Titan Containers. (2011). 10' - 20' - 40' Refrigerated Container (d=312)  
<http://ctctitancontainers.in/IN/Cold%20Stores.aspx?accb0da0bb1511df851ad>

**Figure 3 pg.9 Air circulation around the cargo of a 40ft reefer.**

Hamburg Süd Line Services. (n.d.). Reefer cargo. Retrieved from <http://hsdg/en/hsdg/servicesproducts/transportleistungen/reefer/reefer.htm>

**Figure 5. pg.11 During transit cartons can become weakened from moisture opening the container doors the cartons can fall resulting in rejection.**

Food Science Australia. (2005). The cold chain for cartoned meat expo meatupdate.csiro.au/data/meat\_technology\_update\_05-2.pdf

**Figure 6. pg.12 At the shipping port, normal lifting equipment systems ensure CM Container Management. (2014). Pentalver scoops UK exclusivity for cakeboxx-containers/**

**Figure 7. pg.12 In storage, off port, opening containers is an non-automated process.**

Cakeboxx Technologies. (2014). Lifting the Cakeboxx Lid – It's Easy. Retrieved from <http://cakeboxx-technologies.com/why-cakeboxx/lifting-the-lid/>

**Figure 8. pg.13 Without a refrigeration unit Straxxon can flat-pack efficiently**

McCrorey Digital. (2012). Project: Product conceptualization. Retrieved from <http://mccroreydigital.com/Case-Study/Product-Conceptualization>

**Figure 9. pg.14 'Band-aid solution' solves issues of time efficiency and injury to the supply chain.**

Think Defense. (2011). Container Handling. Retrieved from <http://www.container-handling.com>

3. pg.18 Consistent safety systems ensure quality assurance.

AudCap. (n.d.). About FoodCap. Retrieved from <http://www.foodcap.com/about-foodcap/>

5. pg.20 Capsules are unloaded directly at domestic supermarket.

FoodCap. (n.d.). FoodMove System. Retrieved from <http://www.foodmove/foodmove-system/>

7. pg. 26 Shipping and its supply chain practices are a EMEX annual exhibition targeting manufacturers and exporters.

XPO Exhibitions. (2014). XPO Exhibitions. Retrieved from <https://plus.google.com/+XpoCoNz/>

8. pg.28 Minimising future errors changes the thinking to prevention, rather than acceptance of *casus quo*.

Port of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Retrieved from <http://www.ship-technology.com/projects/portofhongkong/>

9. pg. 38 In-efficient use of space in a 40ft reefer.

Maersk Line. (2013). Energy requirement for reefer shipments drops. Retrieved from <http://www.versline.com/ar-bh/expert-blogs/henrik-lindhardt/energy-requirement-for-reefer-shipments.aspx>

10. pg.39 Conveyor system lacks innovation solving issues of ergonomics in manual loading tasks.

atExportNZ. (2013). We have the technology. Retrieved from <http://meatexportnz.co.nz/tag/>

11. pg.40 Consequence of unpacking a poorly stabilised shipping container.

McLay Insurance. (2014). Why every business needs a robust BCP. Retrieved from <http://leyinsurance.weebly.com/blog/previous/2>

12. pg.40 Product left precariously while 3 workers can take up to 2 hours to unload.

Fishing Area & Operations. Retrieved from <http://www.shing.com/fishing-area-operations/>

13. pg.48 An attempt at stabilising cartons with unsustainable materials.

Atlantic Pacific Fishing PTY Ltd. (2013). Fishing Area & Operations. Retrieved from <http://www.shing.com/fishing-area-operations/>

Figure 31. pg.50 An estimated 10,000 shipping containers are lost at sea per year.

Australia Meat & Quality Foods Pty Ltd. (N.D.). Australia Continues Roll Continues. Retrieved from <http://amqf.com.au/australia-continue-robust-meat-exp>

5. pg.51 20ft container being removed from an inter-modal truck.

Hookers Pacific. (2013). Shipping Containers. Retrieved from <http://www.services/containers/>

Figure 33. pg.51 Multiple forms of transportation including truck, rail and ship design challenges.

Marine Vessel Traffic. (2015). Shanghai container terminal. Retrieved from <http://marinevesseltraffic.com/2013/12/shanghai-container-terminal.html>

Figure 34. pg.52 Design specific research vessel in use.

Petroleum Geo-Services. (2014). Ramform Titan Class. Retrieved from <http://GeoPhysical-Services/Towed-Streamer-Seismic/Ramform-Titan-Class/>

Figure 35. pg.53 Ulstein X bow concept claims to directly enhance profitability new bow design.

Ulstein. (2007). Merchant ULSTEIN X-BOW applications. Retrieved from [http://Kunder/ulstein/cms66.nsf/pages/newslista.htm?open&disp\\_key=bc0cc38b30c&data\\_start=294](http://Kunder/ulstein/cms66.nsf/pages/newslista.htm?open&disp_key=bc0cc38b30c&data_start=294)

Figure 36. pg.53 There are many forms of transportation involved with export/ import.

Port of Dover. (2006) Dover cargo terminal. Retrieved from [http://farmcom/2912/14456104663\\_2d1ca0b405\\_m.jpg](http://farmcom/2912/14456104663_2d1ca0b405_m.jpg)

LIST OF FIGURES  
AUTHORED

Figure 4. pg.10 Current non-automated loading systems manually stack 600

Figure 11. pg.17 Example of a closed internal transportation system by Food

Figure 14. pg.19 FoodCap forms a closed transportation system between supermarkets in national practice.

Figure 16. pg.20 I looked specifically for areas which could benefit from even or complete re-design.

Figure 17. pg.21 A coloured safety bolt is the only security measure that ensures tampered with on arrival.

Figure 18. pg.24 The journey of New Zealand lamb to Chinese consumer - so far

Figure 21. pg.32 Mapping what is and what could be.

Figure 22. pg.36 Sheep meat exports by volume from New Zealand in 2013

Figure 29. pg.49 Stabilised cargo is divided into modules containing shipping

Figure 30. pg.49 Exploration of fastening cargo to the 'T' slot flooring.

Figure 37. pg.57 Closed system concept.

Figure 38. pg.62 Container floor and refrigeration unit.

Figure 39. pg.62 Access to the cargo could be from the side, however it provides forklift maneuverability.

Figure 40. pg.62 Sliding floor allows cargo to be loaded with no restrictions

Figure 41. pg.63 Modular packaging units allow cargo to be moved by a forklift to incorporate ventilation.

Figure 42. pg.63 Modular packing cubes loaded with shipping cartons can be loaded into shipping container.

Figure 43. pg.64 First iteration of floor extrusion locking system.

Figure 45. pg.64 Second iteration of floor extrusion locking system.

5. pg.65 My second iteration focuses on developing a secure join without the use of pneumatic e.

Figure 63. pg.77 Printed panels visualised the concept.  
Figure 64. pg.77 Feedback session discussing manufacturing processes, ex and the infrastructure required to assemble the flat-pack design.

Figure 65. pg.80 Roof and wall extrusion development.

3. pg.66 Laminated MDF mock-up rotates to connect and interlock the flat-pack panels. influence 1/3.

2. pg.67 A solid, air tight seal is achieved.

1. pg.67 Sequence 2/3.

1. pg.67 Sequence 3/3.

2. pg.68 After CAD modeling basic parts, sketching aids in the exploration of further ideas.

3. pg.68 Assembly process for the first iteration of the flat-pack configuration.

4. pg.69 Initial components were drawn in CAD to apply real, physical dimensions. Alternating between digital and analogue modes prompted various explorations of configuration.

5. pg.70 Ventilation of cool and warm air from the integrated refrigeration unit.

6. pg.71 Inset plug design provides two surfaces for an air tight seal to be achieved.

7. pg.71 An interlocking surface ensures the parts self locate and protect the sealing surface from damage which could compromise an air tight seal.

8. pg.71 Encapsulating plug design forms an air tight, torsionally rigid assembly.

9. pg.73 My initial cargo design for a 20ft reefer.

10. pg.73 Cargo is secured with a strap system which hooks into the pallet system, preventing damage and rejection.

Figure 63. pg.77 Printed panels visualised the concept.  
Figure 64. pg.77 Feedback session discussing manufacturing processes, ex and the infrastructure required to assemble the flat-pack design.

Figure 65. pg.80 Roof and wall extrusion development.

Figure 66. pg.81 Floor and wall extrusion development.

Figure 67. pg.82 Final laser cut test of the extrusion design.

Figure 68. pg.82 Final design being CNC router cut from MDF.

Figure 69. pg.83 Final design of extrusions and construction.

Figure 70. pg.84 Assembly process of roof/wall extrusions.

Figure 71. pg.85 Assembly process of wall/floor extrusions.

Figure 72. pg.86 Empty capsules nest to improve space efficiency and stability returning to New Zealand.

Figure 73. pg.87 Full capsules stack when being exported from New Zealand.

Figure 74. pg.87 Symmetry and asymmetry working together.

Figure 75. pg.88 Capsule design nesting in CAD.

Figure 76. pg.88 Capsule design stacking in CAD.

Figure 77. pg.88 Capsules rendered with appropriate materials.

Figure 78. pg.89 Capsules are stacked in a 4 L x 4 W x 6 H to form one module contains 96 capsules each with a volume of 63.25L.

Figure 79. pg.89 Stacked module.

1. pg.74 Warm air is extracted while cold air is fed directly into the ventilation system incorporated my pallet design.

Figure 80. pg.90 Capsule seated firmly on pallet.

Figure 81. pg.90 Integrated strap system.

2. pg.90 Exploded view of top pallet.

3. pg.90 Cargo is stabilised with capsule seated in pallet.

4. pg.91 Module ready to be loaded for export.

5. pg.91 Integrated ventilation ensures even distribution of air around the cargo.

6. pg.91 Securely fastened cargo.

7. pg.91 My cargo design reduces potential damage, eliminates injury, increases food safety  
improves space efficiency.

3. pg.92 Flat-pack design allows for time efficient loading procedure.

2. pg.93 Hydraulic lifting plate.

1. pg.93 Early cardboard exploration of infrastructure.

1. pg.94 Aesthetic explorations and discussions with Sam McCafferty.

2. pg.96 Exterior asymmetry enforced aesthetic design language.

3. pg.96 Ergonomic considerations of container controls. I tested these in a full scale tape  
wing.

4. pg.97 Robust, balance, considered and appropriate.

5. pg.97 Subtle and concise detailing.

6. pg.98 I reflected the chosen design language in all aspects of the design.

7. pg.98 Two of many iterations. I explored design language in all aspects of my design.

3. pg.99 Durable, bold and appropriate design language communicated in my design of the  
infrastructure components.

2. pg. 99 I utilised material and colour choice to communicate system hierarchy.

