### Instructions for Loading a Reefer Container

#### To Optimise Cargo Quality

**The Do’s and Do Not’s of Stuffing Bottom Airflow Reefers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO CARGO ABOVE LINE</td>
<td>✓ Cover the entire floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-floor</td>
<td>✓ Ensure total weight of cargo, container, chassis, genset, and truck are within legal limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side 1</td>
<td>✓ Set unit at optimal carrying temperature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Packaging Frozen & Chilled Non-Live Products

Frozen and most chilled non-live-products do not require air holes in the top and bottom of the cartons. Air flowing around the load is sufficient to remove heat, which has penetrated into the container. The cartons should be stacked directly on top of each other to take advantage of their strength in the corners. If palletised, the corners of each carton should be supported directly by the pallet.

### Packaging Chilled Live Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Ornamentals

- Cartons require airflow holes on top and bottom so that when stacked they align with adjacent cartons. The number, placement, size, and shape of the air holes are determined by the product being packaged.
- If transporting with Humidity Control, use wax impregnated cardboard or other materials that will not lose strength in high humidity conditions.
- The strength of a carton is its corners. Stack cartons directly on top of each other to minimize crushing of the carton below.

### If Loading Cargo on Pallets

- Place cartons on the pallets so that air flows up into the cartons unobstructed.
- The corners of each carton should be supported directly by the pallet.
- If wrapping pallets with plastic to provide stability, do not cover bottom or top of cartons.

**“Things to Do”**

SIDE 1, above, illustrates the correct way to load a “Bottom-Air” reefer with chilled or frozen cargo. In the case of live chilled cargo, covering the entire floor with cargo forces the cool air to flow through the cartons and product throughout the container. When frozen cargo is loaded in this manner, the cold airflows around the cargo blanketing the cartons and removing any heat, which enters the reefer container through the walls.

**“Things Not to Do”**

- Air always takes the path of least resistance. To the right are five examples, which illustrate improperly loaded reefer cargo. In three of these cases (SIDE 2-4) air tends to “short circuit” or flow past the cartons/product rather than through them. SIDE 5 & 6 illustrate restricted airflow scenarios.

### Blocking & Bracing

- Block and brace cargo as necessary using wood. Do not nail dunnage or wood to the container.
- Cover floor between pallets to help force air through cargo (as seen in the top view TOP 4, right).
- Cover the ends of the last two pallets in order to force air up and through the cartons. Do not block off airflow past the end of the T-floor.

### Avoid Cargo Damage – Do Not:

- Do not leave floor space at front bulkhead or sidewalls (if pallets are placed at front bulkhead, be sure to place cardboard under empty pallets).
- Do not run unit with rear doors open.
- Do not load cargo beyond the end of the T-floor.
- Do not plug channels at end of T-floor.
- Do not set reefer set point at a temperature below that required by the cargo (this does not expedite the cooling process).

### Optimal Loading – Top View

In order to force air up and through the cargo, the entire floor should be covered. Cover the floor from the front bulkhead to the end of the T-floor. Where the cargo does not cover the floor some type of filler (dunnage, cardboard, etc.) should be used. Do not load past the end of the T-floor with cargo or filler.