

Unit45 containers get greener

Netherlands-based 45ft container specialist Unit45 has announced that its entire range of intermodal products has been upgraded to provide more environmentally-friendly transportation solutions.

In order to meet the needs of customers with a "green agenda", Unit45 says waterborne coatings will now be available on all its dry freight containers as an option, as will lightweight bamboo floors that do not require treating with polyurethane (PU) coatings.

According to Unit45 managing director Jan Koolen, using waterborne coatings in place of traditional solvent-borne paint reduces the emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by as much as 70%. Unit45 is using water-based coatings supplied by Korean manufacturer SKS, with which it has a longstanding relationship.

For floors, Koolen says Unit45 was one of the first to use white wood flooring but is now switching to bamboo as its

preferred choice of flooring material. "Bamboo is truly an environmentally-friendly product as it grows very rapidly and is produced in plantations that are managed for sustainability.

"But this is not all. Bamboo is light, strong and long lasting, meaning that it is now possible to go green without any penalties. As it is available in long length planks and panels, it is ideal for use in containers," Koolen said.

A 45ft palletwide dry freight unit coated with waterborne paint and fitted with a bamboo floor will be on display at the Intermodal 2011 exhibition in Hamburg at the end of this month alongside a

diesel-electric reefer fitted with a newly developed integral rear door/tail lift. The latter, which has a capacity of 2,500 kg, is designed to simplify loading when the container is mounted on a trailer or when a suitable loading dock is not available.

Unit45 says its 33-pallet diesel-electric reefer unit is proving very popular with European intermodal customers as it is able to operate on rail over long distances such as Rotterdam to Italy, Spain, Poland, Romania, Greece, Russia etc.

UNIT45 is now offering an integral rear door/tail lift with a capacity of 2500 kg on its reefer container range

