

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHILEAN FRUIT ARRIVES AT THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES BY UNIQUE DELIVERY



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After 5:00 p.m.:

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SAN PEDRO, CA - The *Lombok Strait*, a specialized vessel with side door operations, a unique feature in the Reefer industry, made its first arrival at the Port of Los Angeles delivering Chilean fruits. All 5,500 pallets of avocados and grapes were unloaded at the Port of Los Angeles bound for supermarkets throughout the region.

The *Lombok Strait* is one of only two ships in the world that has this kind of side door operation in the reefer trade. The vessel has four side loading doors. This unique feature makes loading and unloading of produce very efficient by alleviating total dependency on cranes. The side doors also as function as a weather protective canopy when in an upright position, shielding the cargo from inclement weather, which can harm the fruit while being transported to the dock. Another advantage is that the cargo below deck can be accessed without removing reefer containers that are placed above deck.

Al Fierstine, Senior Director of Business Development commented, "The arrival of the *Lombok Strait* is very exciting. The technology and operational design of this vessel seems to be the wave of the future."

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Chilean Fruit Arrives

Approximately 300,000 metric tons of produce arrives each year at the Port of Los Angeles making it one of the nation's largest inbound ports for produce. The Chilean fruit and product shipments are a very important component in the fruit imported during the off-season. Chilean fruit fill supermarket shelves in the off-seasons, which runs from December to April when California fruit is not available making produce items such as avocados, grapes and peaches available to the consumer year round.

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