

**Title** Sea transportation of fruits and vegetables: an update  
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**Keyword** containerisation; horticultural produce; shipping; operations; design

### **Abstract**

**Purpose of review:** This review covers improvements, both engineering and operational, over the past 5-7 years and refers to a number of new technologies that have developed for container shipment; a mode that has grown significantly in the period that the review covers. Containerisation is a growth area due to an increased focus on 'whole-of-chain' logistics. Other areas of growth in this period are the linkages between equipment design and operation and produce quality.

**Limitations:** This review is limited by the number of scientific publications that it draws on. There are very few scientific groups and publications that focus on this area hence the review has drawn on a number of informative press articles. This limitation is not expected to have an implication on innovation in this industry, but may limit the ability of the industry to attract scientifically trained resources in the future.

**Directions for future research:** Future research needs are dictated by a number of different factors from government policy to the ever increasing demands of growers, exporters, importers, retailers and ultimately consumers. A number of potential research areas that may become the focus of sea transport research in the near future are discussed.