CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for cold chain monitoring of perishable goods, comprising:

at least one environmental sensor (102) to monitor at least one environmental parameter;

a wide area network interface (114) to communicate with a wide area network (118); and

a controller (104) to log a plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors and to transmit at least one data signal associated with the plurality of readings to the wide area network via the wide area network interface,

characterised in that the apparatus further comprises a short range interface (112), wherein the short range interface includes at least one of: a wired interface, an optical interface, and a short range wireless interface.

2. The apparatus of any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one data signal includes at least one of: the plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors (102) and an excursion alarm signal associated with the plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors.

3. The apparatus of any of the preceding claims, wherein the wide area network interface (114) is a cellular interface to communicate with a cellular network.

4. The apparatus of any of the preceding claims, wherein the apparatus is associated with a transportation operation.

5. The apparatus of any of the preceding claims, wherein a rerouting, transferring or storage operation is associated with the at least one data signal.

6. The apparatus of any of the preceding claims, wherein the plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors (102) is transferred via a secondary download.

7. The apparatus of any of the preceding claims, wherein the perishable goods include at least one of food and pharmaceuticals.

8. A method for cold chain monitoring of perishable goods, comprising:

providing at least one environmental sensor (102);

monitoring at least one environmental parameter via the at least one environmental sensor;

logging a plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors via a controller (104); and

transmitting at least one data signal associated with the plurality of readings to a wide area network (118) via a wide area network interface (114),

characterised in that the method further comprises transmitting the plurality of readings via a short range interface (112), wherein the short range interface includes at least one of: a wired interface, an optical interface, and a short range wireless interface.

9. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one data signal includes at least one of: the plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors (102) and an excursion alarm signal associated with the plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors.

10. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the wide area network interface (114) is a cellular interface to communicate with a cellular network.

11. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising transporting the perishable goods.

12. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising rerouting, transferring or storing the perishable goods in response to the at least one data signal.

13. The method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising transferring the plurality of readings from each of the at least one environmental sensors (102) via a secondary download.