

Thermo King Corporation

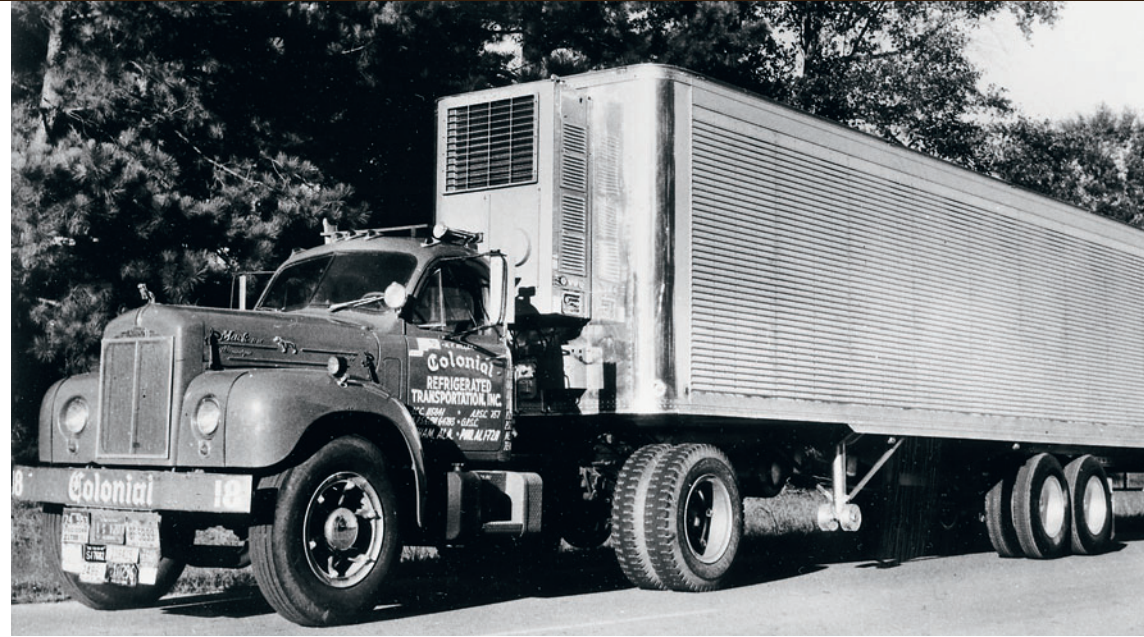
This Bloomington-headquartered company is the world leader in transport temperature control products for trucks, trailers, shipboard containers, and railway cars, as well as HVAC for bus, shuttle, and passenger-rail applications. It is committed to making ecologically responsible products that are designed to last.

Thermo King Corporation, a business unit of Ingersoll Rand Company Limited's Climate Control Technologies sector, is a world-leading maker of temperature control products for transport. Supplying global markets, it operates 10 plants in seven countries, including three in the United States, where it designs and builds refrigeration and heating units for trucks, trailers, railway cars, and ocean-going containers and air-conditioning for buses, trains, and urban mass transit. Thermo King moved in 1956 to its Bloomington headquarters, which today houses more than 550 employees.

History

In 1938 Joseph A. Numero and Frederick M. Jones received the patent for the first transport refrigeration unit—the Model A—and Thermo King was born. The landmark invention ushered in the era of frozen foods, large supermarkets, and the restaurant industry as it is known today. Refrigerated transport also made the delivery of fresh produce anywhere in the nation a possibility no matter what the season.

In 1942 Jones developed the first portable refrigeration units for troops



stationed abroad in World War II. Thermo King also introduced the first refrigerated boxcars in the 1940s, which made fresh produce more widely available and affordable to the public because it cost less to ship.

The introduction of diesel engines in refrigerated units in 1958 by Thermo King was a big step forward for many reasons. Its main benefit

was extended engine life compared to gas-powered units. Thermo King was not limited to transportation refrigeration products, however. Some of the additional products the company built and sold included milk coolers, golf carts, school desks, and shopping carts.

During the 1970s Thermo King continued to provide innovative products to the transportation industry. These early

efforts evolved into products that became some of the most advanced in the industry. At the same time, Thermo King was becoming a worldwide business. Thermo King Europe was opened in Galway, Ireland, and began producing refrigeration units that were sold throughout Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Australia, and Asia. The company's international expansion continues to this day.



In 1991 the National Medal of Technology was awarded posthumously to Joseph Numero and Frederick Jones. President George H. W. Bush presented the awards to the two men's widows at a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden. Jones was the first African-American to receive the award.

Ingersoll Rand acquired Thermo King in 1997 from Westinghouse. Along with other Ingersoll Rand climate-control businesses such as Hussmann Corporation, Thermo King plays a significant role in the From Farm to Fork cold chain—a temperature-controlled supply chain through which food quality and safety are maintained from the time of harvest through production, distribution, and sale to consumers.

In 2005 Thermo King launched the TriPac hybrid auxiliary idle-reduction and temperature-management system, which eliminates the need for a truck engine to idle to provide



heating and air-conditioning to the truck cab.

Today Thermo King continues in its industry-leading role, improving quality and reliability and developing new technologies designed to carry the business and the industry through the 21st century.

Community Involvement

Thermo King strives to be a valued corporate citizen and good neighbor by working proactively to determine where and what resources can be allocated to make the biggest difference in the community. The company provides organizations with charitable contributions in four major categories:

- food distribution—providing nutritional assistance to low-income families, emergency feeding programs, and the elderly
- health and human services—providing resources to those in extreme need of shelter, food, health care, and support services and identifying opportunities to enable self-sufficiency by assisting community-based services targeted to low- and moderate-income families and individuals
- technology education—assisting programs that enhance and encourage hands-on learning and reach all populations, specifically low-income minority communities where fewer opportunities exist, as well as supporting community development initiatives that act as catalysts in

- economically distressed areas
- arts and culture—promoting multicultural and diversity awareness to build a well-balanced, healthy community.

Examples of the company's involvement include United Way, Second Harvest Food Shelf, Ronald McDonald House, Metropolitan Economic Development Association, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, YouthCare, the Minneapolis Urban League, Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Centers, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Guthrie Theater, the Children's Theatre Company, the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Penumbra Theatre Company, and Habitat for Humanity.

Future Plans

Thermo King continues to develop and refine temperature control products that help provide fresh, safe food worldwide and to offer environmentally responsible products that deliver the greatest value to its customers. Thermo King will continue to be a dedicated member of the greater Bloomington community.

Above left: Thermo King is headquartered in Bloomington, Minnesota, where it employs 550 people. Worldwide, the company operates 10 manufacturing facilities and 17 parts centers; sales and service is provided by a network of 865 dealers in 75 countries. Above right: This trailer shows the SB-210 temperature control unit, which features the SR-2 controller for total temperature management in 21 languages.