

SimpliCool Unveils 'Cube' Modular Vender Refrigeration System

WAYNESVILLE, OH — Introduced at the 2001 National Automatic Merchandising Association's National Expo in Chicago was a modular refrigeration system designed for easy retrofit into a wide variety of chilled vending machines, as well as display coolers. It also can be incorporated into new vending machines on an OEM basis.

Called "GRS 2100," or "The Cube" for short, the system was developed by Phil Baker here. Baker, a veteran of the commercial refrigeration field with extensive experience in vending and coolers, Baker climaxed 10 years of research and development by forming SimpliCool Technologies International, LLC last year to bring "The Cube" to market.

Baker's vision was to design a standardized refrigeration module incorporating the latest technology, including electronic controls to regulate operation and help manage electrical and heating issues while addressing the perennial issue of dirt build-up.

EFFICIENT SERVICE

A prime design objective was a module that can be removed and replaced easily in one to three minutes. This allows refrigeration modules simply to be exchanged in the field and brought back to the shop or returned to the factory service center for efficient cleaning and maintenance, minimizing labor, equipment downtime and accidental refrigerant-gas discharge issues.

"The Cube" has been listed by Underwriters Laboratories and successfully retrofitted to can and bottle venders, as well as display coolers. Baker reports that it attracted favorable attention at the NAMA expo, from operators who know the problems associated with keeping refrigerated equipment up and running.

SimpliCool also has worked with government agencies and environmental organizations to enhance energy efficiency. Baker notes that the environment-friendly design of "The Cube" has won it a cordial reception by these organizations, and additional testing is under way. The entire module is substantially recyclable.

Manufactured in Ohio, "The Cube" is a self-contained, universal, electronically-controlled closed-loop interchangeable refrigeration module. It operates at reduced noise levels, and its electronic controls enable it to continue operating during low-voltage conditions – and protect the system against voltage surges and "brownout" conditions.

Baker reported that "The Cube" incorporates a state-of-the-art compressor designed specifically for vending with an excess-capacity condenser and a cooling system that reduces the compressor's operating temperature substantially. Thus, the compressor benefits from reduced run cycles for longer life and lower maintenance.

The electronic control system incorporates a microprocessor and a cutting-edge high-resolution temperature

sensor network that permits monitoring refrigerant pressure, airflow, and cabinet temperature, and allows for evaporator defrosting on demand. It also will allow communication with a multi-drop bus (MDB) capable vending machine controller, and it can be connected to a laptop computer for function monitoring or reprogramming. The controller is said essentially to eliminate "freeze-ups," and will shut down the system before a compressor burnout occurs.

"The Cube" measures 10 ins. high X 22 ins. wide X 20 ins. deep, which provides for greater product storage area in retrofitted or new equipment. Drain pans also can be eliminated, Baker said, so product delivery areas can be lowered.

Production "Cubes" are available for immediate delivery, and retrofittable modules soon will be offered for a variety of vending machines. Information may be had by calling 888-286-3462 [888-CUBEINC].



"GRS 2100 CUBE"