

REAL Torque

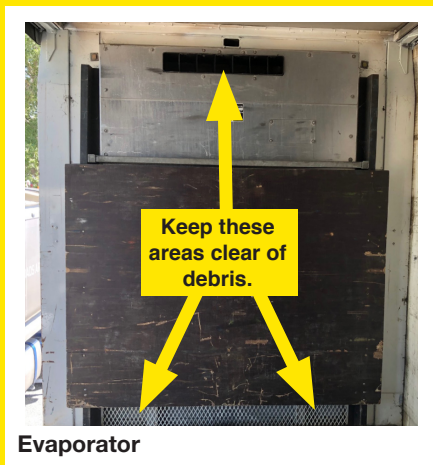
February 2020

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

Reefer Fridge Unit Pre-Start Checks

There are several different fridge models in our fleet but all have similar functions even though the start panel and displays may look different.

Thermo King and Carrier are the most common brands. 'Reefers' include trucks and trailers. Trucks fitted with fridge bodies have the fridge control panel mounted inside the cab, and trailers have them mounted on the front wall.



Carrier Vector 1950 Control Panel



Thermo King Display Panel

- Before starting, the fridge body doors should be opened. Check inside for damage and for debris that may get caught up in the front wall evaporator grating. Blocking this prevents efficient cooling. An example of this would be some plastic pallet wrapping or birds nesting in the evaporator. Check that the moisture drain tubes are not blocked. Check the condition of the doors and seals, and shut the doors before starting.

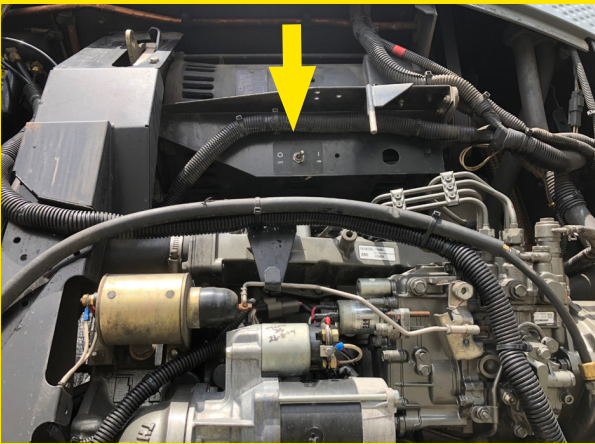
- At the front, open the fridge cover doors and check for any sign of oil, coolant, or refrigerant leaks. Check the engine fan belt condition and tension. Birds' nests at certain times of the year can be a problem especially if the unit has been sitting unused for long periods. These can cause a fire if not removed.



- Check the fuel level using the sight glass on the tank.



4 Ensure the engine start switch is 'on' inside the cover.



5 Start the fridge engine. The engine may not start immediately and it may take a few seconds to start while the fridge carries out its system checks. An alarm will sound to warn you that the starting process is underway. This will stop when the engine starts. Once it is running, ensure there are no fault codes present on the display. The LCD display will show any faults that are present with either a description of the fault or a fault code. There may also be a red warning light to indicate a fault.

6 Most Thermo King units have a status light mounted on the front of the unit so the operator can see this in his mirror while driving. These display the current status and may show the temperature, fuel level, and fault warnings. Contact the service agent if faults are present to have them rectified.



7 The LCD displays can be quite comprehensive and control a lot of other functions depending on the model of fridge. Current hour meter readings, temperature settings, engine options, engine timer settings, and fault reporting are the basic functions but by scrolling through the menu, you will be able to find other options to suit your needs.

The engine can be set to run continuously or in a cycle mode. This option is selected on the relevant control panel switch. The temperature required can then be set and raised or lowered by pressing the temperature control switch.

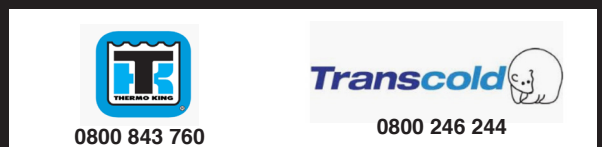
8 Ensure annual fridge calibrations are current. Annual fridge calibration certificates are important so our customers know that the refrigerated freight they are carrying is being kept at the correct temperature. For fresh and frozen goods this is really important and our customer's businesses rely on the reefer gear operating correctly. The calibration certificate proves that the reefer can cool down to the levels it's designed to.



Tips and Tricks

- ▶ Ensure the fuel tank is kept topped up with diesel to avoid condensation build up.
- ▶ Keep the inside of the fridge body and evaporator clean.
- ▶ Be aware that we service the units on 'engine hours' not 'total hours'.
- ▶ Ensure annual fridge calibrations are carried out.
- ▶ Starting the fridge motor every month and running it for an hour when not being used will help maintain battery charge and will help keep the compressor in good condition.

- ▶ Be aware when charging or jump starting the fridge as it is a 12 volt system.
- ▶ Thermo King and Transcold are our main service agents.



REAL February 2020 Torque

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

TR TRUCKS & TRAILERS
RENTAL & LEASE
TR GROUP LTD

Making heavy vehicle fleet management easy for you