Claims:

1. An atmosphere control system (74, 74') for use with a container (10), the atmosphere control system comprising:

an air compressor (80) configured to generate compressed air, the air compressor located outside the container;

a separator (90) configured to receive the compressed air and output nitrogen into the interior of the container; and a valve (V1) between the air compressor (80) and the separator (90),characterized in that the valve (V1), in an open position, directs compressed air to the container (10);

a heat exchanger (84) positioned between the air compressor (80) and the separator (90), the heat exchanger configured to cool the compressed air from the air compressor;

a water separator (86) between the heat exchanger (84) and the separator (90).

2. The atmosphere control system (74, 74') of claim 1 wherein:

the valve (V1), in a closed position, directs compressed air to the separator (90).

3. The atmosphere control system (74, 74') of claim 2 further comprising:

a controller (70) configured to control the valve (V1) to move between the open position and the closed position.

4. The atmosphere control system (74, 74') of claim 3 wherein:

the controller (7) is configured to control a compressor (26).

5. The atmosphere control system (74, 74') of any previous claim further comprising:

at least one filter (82) between the water separator (86) and the separator (90).

6. A refrigeration unit (24) for use with a container (10), the refrigeration unit comprising:

a compressor (26), a condenser (28), an expansion device (30) and an evaporator (32) configured to circulate a refrigerant;

a condenser section (58) housing the compressor and the condenser;

an evaporator section (54) housing the evaporator; and

the atmosphere control system (74,74') according to claim 1.

7. The refrigeration unit (24) of claim 6, wherein the air compressor is located in the condenser section.

8. The refrigeration unit (24) of claim 6, wherein the separator is located in the evaporator section.

9. The refrigeration unit (24) of any previous claim further comprising:

a sensor (96) in the evaporator section (54), the sensor configured to measure a level of a gas in the container (10);

a controller;

wherein the controller (70) is configured to move the valve (V1) between the open position and the closed position in response to the level of the gas in the container.

10. The refrigeration unit (24) of any previous claim further comprising:

at least one filter (82) located in the condenser section (58).

11. The refrigeration unit (24) of any previous claim further comprising:

at least one filter (82) located in the evaporator section (54).