CLAIMS:

1. A method of de-icing a return air intake of a transport refrigeration system, the method comprising:

controlling, using a controller, a first plurality of components of the refrigerationsystem, the first plurality comprising at least one of a refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger, a fan for the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger, and a heater, wherein the heater is located below the return air intake;

determining, using the controller, when a de-icing mode is required;

deactivating, using the controller, a second plurality of components of the refrigeration system when the de-icing mode is required, the second plurality comprising the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger and the fan for the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger;

activating, using the controller, the heater when the de-icing mode is required;

adjusting, using the controller, the temperature of the heater to a selected temperature;

deactivating, using the controller, the heater when the heater has reached the selected temperature; and

permitting, using the controller, the second plurality of components of refrigeration system to remain deactivated for a selected time period.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

reactivating, using the controller, the second plurality of components of the refrigeration system after the selected time period.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the heater is an electric resistance heater.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the selected temperature is about 90°F (32.22°C).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the selected time period is about 10 minutes.

6. A controller of a transport refrigeration system comprising:

a processor;

a memory comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform operations, the operations comprising:

controlling a first plurality of components of the refrigeration system, the first plurality comprising at least one of a refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger, a fan for the

refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger, and a heater, wherein the heater is located below a return air intake of the transport refrigeration system;

determining when a de-icing mode is required;

deactivating a second plurality of components of the refrigeration system when the de-icing mode is required, the second plurality comprising the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger and the fan for the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger;

activating the heater when the de-icing mode is required;

adjusting the temperature of the heater to a selected temperature;

deactivating the heater when the heater has reached the selected temperature; and

permitting the second plurality of components of refrigeration system to remain deactivated for a selected time period.

7. The controller of claim 6, wherein the operations further comprise:

reactivating the second plurality of components of the refrigeration system after the selected time period.

8. The controller of claim 6, wherein:

the heater is an electric resistance heater.

9. The controller of claim 6, wherein:

the selected temperature is about 90°F (32.22°C).

10. The controller of claim 6, wherein:

the selected time period is about 10 minutes.

11. A computer program product tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program product including instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

controlling a first plurality of components of the refrigeration system, the first plurality comprising at least one of a refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger, a fan for the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger, and a heater, wherein the heater is located below a return air intake of the transport refrigeration system;

determining when a de-icing mode is required;

deactivating a second plurality of components of the refrigeration system when the de-icing mode is required, the second plurality comprising the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger and the fan for the refrigerant heat absorption heat exchanger;

activating the heater when the de-icing mode is required;

adjusting the temperature of the heater to a selected temperature;

deactivating the heater when the heater has reached the selected temperature; and

permitting the second plurality of components of refrigeration system to remain deactivated for a selected time period.

12. The computer program of claim 11, wherein the operations further comprise:

reactivating the second plurality of components of the refrigeration system after the selected time period.

13. The computer program of claim 11, wherein:

the heater is an electric resistance heater.

14. The computer program of claim 11, wherein:

the selected temperature is about 90°F (32.22°C).

15. The computer program of claim 11, wherein:

the selected time period is about 10 minutes.