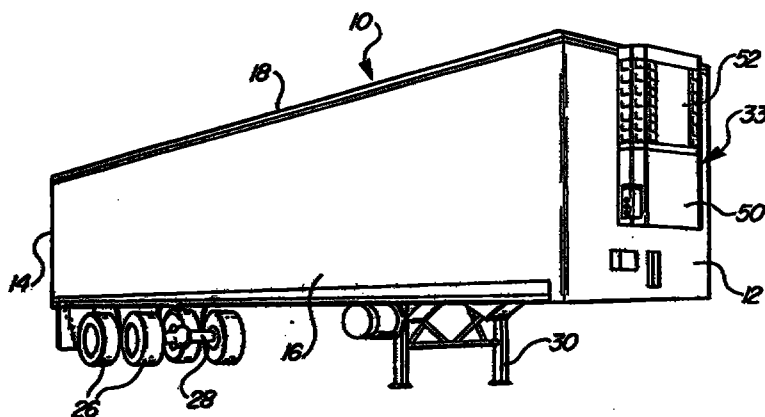




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(54) Title: MOBILE RIPENING CONTAINER



(57) Abstract

A mobile container adapted for transporting perishable goods includes a front wall, a rear wall, a pair of side walls extending therebetween so as to define an elongated enclosure having a longitudinal axis and adapted to receive a cargo load. An air recirculation plenum is defined in the enclosure adjacent to the front wall. A refrigeration system is in fluid communication with the air recirculation plenum and is adapted to induct air at a first temperature and to exhaust air at a second temperature. A pair of air delivery plenums extend from the bulkhead along the length of the enclosure parallel to the longitudinal axis. Each of the pair of air delivery plenums is defined by a corresponding one of the pair of side walls and a plenum wall disposed spaced from the corresponding side wall and extending from the upper margins of the enclosure such that the plenum wall is adapted to be co-extensive and in abutting contact with a portion of the cargo load. The container also includes a source of pressurized air having an inlet in fluid communication with the exhausted air from the refrigeration system and an outlet in fluid communication with the pair of air delivery plenums. A return air plenum is defined between the air delivery plenums such that the cool air is supplied under pressure along the longitudinal length of the enclosure parallel to and adjacent the pair of side walls and then flows through the cargo load in a direction substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis into the return air plenum whereafter the air flows substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis back to the air recirculation plenum.