Refrigerator Too Cold

PROBLEM: I just finished reading your article in the *Blue Beret* on refrigerators. I have a 1996 Airstream, which I bought 6 months ago. No matter what setting it is on, things in the refrigerator will freeze. Now after reading your article, I realize it should be switching on and off but my unit never goes off. Even at the warmest setting, it is too cold. On occasion, it will also change the temperature setting by itself. I have tried moving the slide on the fns but that does not make any difference. Any suggestions?

ANSWER: The best bet is your thermostat, which is monitoring the box temperature. This sensor can fail and then:

SPECIAL FEATURES OF OPERATION

The control system contains a feature where it will continue to operate the cooling system in the event of a failure of a major operating component. Two different modes of operation can occur in this category.

1. If the display module becomes nonfunctional, the control system will revert to full automatic operation selecting the best energy source available with AC then GAS priority. The temperature of the refrigerator will be maintained at the MID position within normal temperature tolerances. The power module will continually attempt to reestablish operation of the display module.

2. The second special feature of operation will execute when a **failure of the temperature sensing device or associated electronic circuitry occurs**. If this should occur, the control system will operate on the energy source selected via the control panel. The cooling unit will run continuously on the selected energy source and could freeze. The refrigerator will continue to operate in this mode indefinitely or until a new sensor is installed and the system is reset.

In the *Blue Beret* article check on the overall schematic of the fridge and you will see a thermistor on the left side about in the middle. The thermistor is installed inside the fridge and has two white wires that feed out and are plugged into the main circuit board. Unplug the white leads from the main circuit board and check it for a reading on an ohmmeter. If you get no reading at all, it is open and has failed. If it has a reading, then remove it from the main box and disconnect the terminals from the main board. If you put it in a glass of ice water, you should get an ohmmeter reading of 7000 to 10,000 ohms after 2-3 minutes.

If the sensor is OK you could possibly have a defective main board or control board. Usually what fails on the main board is the connections. Removing the little Molex connectors and spraying both sides with terminal cleaner, will usually fix any poor connections. Be sure to use the special electronic circuit spray, which does not leave any residue. Then plug and unplug the connectors several times to remove any deposits.

You can download a complete seminar on troubleshooting and servicing your fridge by going to:

http://wbccicaravan.wbcci.net/ and downloading “Troubleshooting & Repair of Your Propane Equipment.”