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CATCO Parts and Service Converts the American Stores

St. Paul, MN – January 5, 2004 – CATCO Parts & Service recently announced the conversion of the American Stores business, purchased in July of 2002, to the CATCO Parts and Service name. Since the purchase of the American Stores in 2002, CATCO Parts & Service has operated the company as a separate, independent entity.

“CATCO Parts and Service leverages the strong CATCO name and tradition and gives our customers a tremendous benefit in being able to acquire both tractor and trailer parts and service under one roof,” said Dave Gerdes, Chief Operating Officer of CATCO Parts and Service.

Effective in January 2004, ALL of CATCO’s purchasing volume will be directed through the VIPAR Heavy Duty network. “The entire VIPAR Heavy Duty team thanks Tom Peterson and his staff for their continued support and trust,” commented Steve Crowley, President of VIPAR Heavy Duty, on the transition. CATCO Parts & Service has been a VIPAR Heavy Duty Stockholder Distributor since 1990.

CATCO Parts and Service has been serving the heavy duty trucking industry for over 50 years. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, CATCO has 16 locations servicing Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and is part of the VIPAR Heavy Duty Network of Distributors.

VIPAR Heavy Duty is North America's leading network of aftermarket truck parts wholesale distributors with over 500 locations across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. VIPAR Heavy Duty Distributors are specialists who understand the demands of their local, regional, and national customers for quality parts and exceptional service.

For more information, visit www.vipar.com, or, contact Jeff Paul, Marketing & Communications Manager for VIPAR Heavy Duty, at 815.788.1725 x 223 or by e-mail to jpaul@vipar.com.

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