Greetings to our dear readers. This issue of the Gas Safety Bulletin features an introduction to the Listing Scheme for LPG Lighters. It also provides knowledge on relevant gas safety regulations, safety tips about the use of cassette cookers and glass top built in gas hobs. The gas incident and prosecution statistics by type from January to October 2012 are also provided for your reference.

The safety regulations and proper use of LPG lighters were featured in Issues No.9 and 11 of the Gas Safety Bulletin back in 2009 and 2010 respectively. To implement the Listing Scheme for LPG Lighters, EMSD has also prepared the Guidance Note GU 18 – Safety of LPG Lighters to help stakeholders understand the Scheme and put it into practice.

**Purpose of the Scheme**

EMSD has held a number of briefing sessions for stakeholders (including importers and retailers of LPG lighters) since September 2011, prior to the launching of the Listing Scheme for LPG Lighters on 1 January 2012. Under the Scheme, importers or local manufacturers of any LPG lighter products sold and used in Hong Kong are required to apply for listing of the products. This is in order to promote self-regulation among trade members regarding the safety and monitoring of their LPG lighter products, in an effort to phase out the products of which safety is not certified, and ensure public safety.

**Listed LPG Lighters**

Any lighter that complies with the requirements set out in the Guidance Note GU 18 – Safety of LPG Lighters issued by the Gas Standards Office of EMSD is eligible to be included in the List of LPG Lighters. The listed LPG lighter will bear a serial number approved by EMSD for easy identification. As at 31 October 2012, a total of 33 models, imported into Hong Kong by 12 different LPG lighter importers, have been included in the List.

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Meaning of the Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>LPG lighter</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>D R</td>
<td>Type of lighter: Disposable lighter Refillable lighter</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 to 7</td>
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<td>a unique code of 5 numbers/English alphabets</td>
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All LPG lighters must come with a serial number. The serial number may be marked on the lighter, displayed in a separate pamphlet packed with the lighter, or printed on the package.

**Documents to Be Included in Application**

1. A product catalogue that contains the model number of the LPG lighter;
2. A design drawing of the LPG lighter (in duplicate) detailing such information as its length, width, height (millimetre), water capacity, etc., as well as photos of the LPG lighter;
3. A brief description of the manufacturer, including company profile, country of manufacture and factory address;
4. The original or a certified copy of type-test safety report issued by a recognised laboratory in regard to the LPG lighter. (If the LPG lighter's country of origin is China, the safety test report must be issued or recognised by a competent dangerous goods testing laboratory recognised by AQSIQ. Otherwise, the report will not be accepted);
5. The original or a certified copy of type-test safety report issued by an accredited laboratory in Hong Kong in regard to the LPG lighter;
6. The importer must provide a valid export approval document or certificate issued by the place/country of manufacture (if applicable);
7. A copy of a valid business registration certificate;
8. A description of the markings or labels on the LPG lighter;
9. Thirty samples of the LPG Lighter (or the quantity requested by the Gas Authority);

**Product Information**

A listed LPG lighter must come with the following product information:
- Brand name
- Model
- Manufacturer code (for lighters manufactured in China)
- Labels (including warning label, name and telephone number of importer, and serial number assigned by EMSD)

**Safety Standards for Lighters**

Members of the gas trade may well be aware that registered gas installers are under the regulation of the Gas Safety (Registration of Gas Installers and Gas Contractors) Regulations. This column makes reference to some of these regulations and serves as a reminder for our readers.

Regulation 3(1): No person other than a registered gas installer who is a registered gas contractor or the employee of a registered gas contractor shall personally carry out any gas installation work.

Regulation 9: Where an individual personally carrying out any gas installation work is, in relation to such work, under the supervision of a registered gas installer, such gas installer shall check such work to ensure it has been carried out in accordance with the relevant requirements.

Regulation 10: A registered gas installer shall, when carrying out any gas installation work, cooperate with any person who demands to inspect his registered gas installer card by producing the latter for inspection.

Regulation 11: Should a registered gas installer change his name or postal address, he shall inform the Gas Authority in writing not later than 21 days after such change being made.

Regulation 25(1): If the Gas Authority finds after investigation any contravention of the gas safety legislation by a registered gas installer, it may take the following disciplinary actions against that installer:

(a) Cancel the registration of the registered gas installer;
(b) Suspend the registration of the registered gas installer;
(c) Alter the class or classes of gas installation work in respect of which the registered gas installer is so registered; or
(d) Reprimand the registered gas installer.

In the past year, three disciplinary actions were taken against registered gas installers.

All domestic gas appliances supplied and sold in Hong Kong, including cassette cookers, must be approved by the Gas Authority, and all approved domestic gas appliances bear the GU mark. Users of cassette cookers must observe the relevant safety guidelines, read through the manual provided by the appliance manufacturer before use, and use the cassette cooker properly according to the instructions of the manual. When using the cassette cooker, make sure that there is good ventilation and keep the appliance away from flammable materials.

Users should also make sure that when inserting an LPG cartridge into the cassette cooker, the cartridge guide should be in an upright position. Keep away from any source of ignition and flames when the cartridge is being inserted or removed. Cartridges should be stored in a dry, cool and well-ventilated place. Never use two cassette cookers side-by-side together, nor use any oversized cooking utensils that extend over the edge of the cartridge cover, or accessories not approved by the manufacturer.

The stove surface of glass-top built-in gas hobs is made of toughened glass, which is safer than ordinary glass. However, to prevent the glass top from cracking, the following points should be noted by the user:

1. Clean the burner assembly regularly to keep the holes of the burner cap clear. In case any food or liquid boils over, promptly clean up the burner assembly once it has cooled down; otherwise the burner holes may become clogged. Clogging will affect the normal supply of gas and cause flashback fire in the burner air inlet under the glass top, resulting in abnormal heating and the cracking of the glass.
2. If abnormal sound is detected from the gas hob, stop using it immediately and arrange for a competent person to inspect it.
3. Do not use oversized utensils, as the heat of the flame will be reflected to the glass panel, causing it to crack.
4. Do not hit the glass panel with any hard object or place any heavy object on it, as it will crack under the pressure of the object causing overloading.

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Points to Note When Removing Primary Meters

According to regulation 14(2) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations, where a primary meter will not be forthwith reinstated or replaced by another primary meter after being removed, the person who last supplied gas through that meter has the responsibility to:

(a) close any service valve which controlled the supply of gas to that meter and did not control the supply of gas to any other primary meter; and
(b) clearly mark, in English and Chinese, on any live gas pipe in the premises the wordings to the effect that the pipe contains gas before the removal of that meter.

Without proper marking, the live gas pipes which are not in use in the premises may get damaged accidentally. They may also rust or even leak gas due to lack of maintenance. Therefore, registered gas supply companies and their employees should, in accordance with relevant regulations, close the related service valves before removing a primary meter, and clearly mark, in English and Chinese, on any live gas pipe in the premises the wordings to the effect that the pipe contains gas for easy identification.

Where the meter has not been reinstated or replaced by another primary meter within 12 months after its removal and there is no service valve referred to above, the person who last supplied gas through that meter and did not control the supply of gas to any other primary meter should, as far as reasonably practicable and before the removal of the meter, ensure that the service pipe for the premises concerned is disconnected as near as possible to the gas main and that any part of the pipe which is not removed is sealed at both ends, so as to ensure that the premises does not have any live gas pipe that is not in use.

Any person who contravenes regulation 14(2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of a fine at Level 2. For information about the requirements for installation or removal of primary meters, please visit the EMSD website: http://www.emsd.gov.hk.