

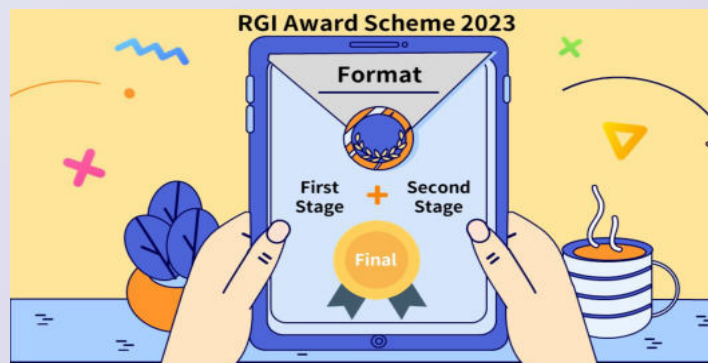
GAS SAFETY Bulletin

ISSUE 36

Gas Trade cum I&T Forum

RGI Award Scheme 2023

Hong Kong's First Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal Commenced Operation



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Message from the Editor

Hello, everyone! This issue of the Gas Safety Bulletin will feature the latest developments in the gas industry, including the details of the Gas Trade cum I&T Forum to be held in September 2023. We will also share in this issue gas safety knowledge about the proper use and maintenance of domestic gas cooking appliances, as well as the safe use of portable cassette cookers and cartridges. Moreover, we will introduce the operation of Hong Kong's first offshore liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal, which has been completed and put into operation to further raise the proportion of using natural gas for local electricity generation and reduce carbon emissions.



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Feature

Gas Trade cum I&T Forum

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), we organised the Gas Trade cum I&T Forum in September this year and invited stakeholders of the gas trade, including the Hong Kong and China Gas Company, registered gas supply companies, the Vocational Training Council, registered gas contractors, registered gas installers and relevant trade unions to participate in the forum and jointly discussed topics of gas safety and innovation and technology (I&T) applications.

We also invited some relevant organisations in the trade to share examples of their I&T applications, so as to strengthen ties and collaboration with the trade and promote the I&T development of the trade.



There were about 240 guests attending the Gas Trade cum I&T Forum, and were honoured to have invited Mr LEUNG Kwong-ho, Edmund, former Chairman of the Energy Advisory Committee, to deliver a keynote address on that day kicking off the forum. The forum was divided into two sessions, each featuring speeches by four trade leaders from different sectors. At the end of each session, the moderator of the forum, Mr WONG Wai-on, Duncan, former President of the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers, had a themed discussion and exchange of views with the speakers. In addition, we held the award presentation ceremony of the Outstanding Registered Gas Installers Award Scheme 2023 on the same day of the forum to share the joy with the winners.

The forum is a premium event of the gas trade, providing an exchange and discussion platform for experts, scholars and stakeholders of the trade to jointly explore new directions of the trade in the application of innovative technologies, so as to better prepare the future pillars of society for the new landscape of the gas trade.





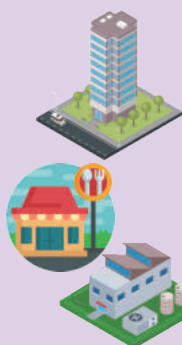
Feature

RGI Award Scheme 2023



The purpose of the RGI Award Scheme 2023 was to raise the safety awareness and technical level of participants, as well as commending outstanding registered gas installers. It also aimed to set an example for the industry and encourage participants to pursue continuing education. The participants were divided into two categories - the residential category (for Class 1 to Class 4 installers) as well as the industrial and commercial category (for Class 5 to Class 8 installers). The first stage of the competition, in the format of an online multiple-choice test, was completed in July; whereas the second stage, in the format of interviews, was completed in mid-August.

Categories



Residential category

For Class 1 to Class 4 installers

Industrial and commercial category

For Class 5 to Class 8 installers

Format

First stage:

Online multiple-choice test

Second stage:

Interview



Those who had participated in the CPD Scheme would receive extra points at this stage as a token of encouragement



Winners

	Domestic Group	Commencial Group
Champion	Ha Yuk Lam, Eagle	Chu Kwok Key
First runner up	Keung Chun Kin, Vick	Ha Yuk Lam, Eagle
Second runner up	Tsang Wai Man	Ho Hung
Merit award	Chan Kwun Chai Lan Siu Sang	Kwok Wai Lok Lee Chi Hung

Co-organiser





Feature

Hong Kong's First Offshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal Commenced Operation

Since 1996, Hong Kong has been importing natural gas via a submarine pipeline from the Mainland to generate electricity. The CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and Hongkong Electric Company Limited earlier successfully constructed Hong Kong's first offshore LNG terminal (offshore terminal) in the south-western waters of Hong Kong, which has enabled the two power companies to procure LNG from the international market, further increasing the ratio of using natural gas for electricity generation in Hong Kong, and reducing carbon emissions.

The offshore terminal allows the simultaneous mooring of a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) vessel and an LNG carrier, and in the terminal LNG from the carrier is unloaded and stored in the FSRU vessel. When natural gas is required, the FSRU vessel regasifies the LNG, which will be then sent via the offshore terminal and submarine pipelines to the Black Point Power Station and Lamma Power Station for electricity generation. In April 2023, the world's largest FSRU vessel successfully moored at the offshore terminal and was renamed "Bauhinia Spirit". Both the vessel and offshore terminal commenced full operation in early July of this year.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department is responsible for regulating gas safety. After the installation of the natural gas facilities at the offshore terminal was completed, we have conducted gas safety review, and approved the use of the gas facilities at the offshore terminal. We will continue to monitor and inspect the offshore terminal to ensure gas safety.





Did you know

Becoming a Competent Person (Class 1 or Class 2)

As stipulated by the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations (Cap. 51B) (the Regulations), LPG storage installations are required to be periodically inspected and tested by two classes of competent persons to ensure safety. The duties of these two classes of competent persons are as follows:

Competent Persons (Class 1)

Responsible for the periodic testing and certification of equipment in LPG storage installations (e.g. LPG tanks, vaporisers and gas mains) to certify that the equipment complies with the safety requirements of the Regulations.



LPG tank



Vaporiser



Gas main

Competent Persons (Class 2)

Responsible for the annual inspection and certification of LPG storage installations (e.g. LPG compounds and LPG cylinder stores) to certify that the maintenance and operation of the LPG storage installations are carried out in accordance with the Regulations.



Annual inspection of LPG installations

The work of the two classes of competent persons is essential to ensuring the safety of LPG equipment and storage installations. Therefore, we have been strongly encouraging capable and experienced people in the LPG industry to proactively apply to become competent persons. In the past five years, three Competent Persons (Class 1) (representing 9% of the total number of Competent Persons (Class 1)) and four Competent Persons (Class 2) (representing 15% of the total number of Competent Persons (Class 2)) have joined us to advance the cause of gas safety together.

Interested parties are welcome to visit the EMSD website by scanning the QR code on the right or contact the Gas Standards Office for application details.





Did you know

Gas Safety Knowledge about Using Portable Cassette Cookers

As the weather has become cooler recently, many people will eat hot pot at food premises. In order to ensure the safety of food premises and their customers, it is important to use safe and reliable portable cassette cookers. In this regard, the EMSD has implemented the Gas Safety Ordinance in an endeavour to enhance gas safety, as well as providing a sound operational framework for the gas trade to follow and institutionalising the monitoring work of the trade. This not only improves the service quality of the trade, but also greatly enhances the safety of food premises and their customers.

Safe Use of Portable Cassette Cookers and Cartridges

-  

Only use a portable cassette cooker that bears the "GU" mark
-  

Do not use two portable cassette cookers placed next to each other
- 

已獲機電工程署批准
Approved by EMSD
-  

Do not use cooking utensils that are too large
- 

LPG GAS
卡式氣瓶
- 

Only use approved cartridges



Gas Safety-Hotpot

機電工程署
EMSD 



Did you know

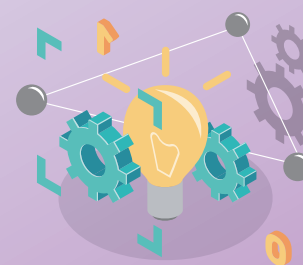
How to Use and Maintain Domestic Gas Cooking Appliances Properly

Users should pay attention to gas safety when using domestic gas cooking appliances. Members of the public should buy domestic gas cooking appliances that bear the "GU" mark, read the user manuals carefully and operate the cooking appliances in accordance with the safety guidelines set out therein. Moreover, the cooking appliances must be installed and tested by registered gas installers employed by registered gas contractors before they can be used.



When using a gas cooking appliance:

- ✓ Use genuine parts supplied by the original appliance manufacturer
- ✓ Make sure that there is adequate ventilation in the kitchen but take care to keep the flame out of direct wind
- ✗ Do not add any devices that are not supplied by the original appliance manufacturer (e.g. energy-saving products, tinfoil coverings and trivets) between the cooking appliance and cookware, so as to avoid abnormal combustion that may cause an accident





Legal Knowledge

Precautions for Using Gas Vehicles to Carry LPG Cylinders

According to the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, only cylinder wagons with a valid permit can carry LPG cylinders with a combined water capacity of more than 130 litres on a road. The owner and operators of a cylinder wagon all have the responsibility for ensuring that its operation complies with the additional conditions printed on the back of the permit, including the provisions for temporary stationing and parking during the delivery of LPG cylinders.

The additional condition (5) states that during the delivery/collection of LPG cylinders, the operators of a cylinder wagon must meet one of the following conditions before stationing the wagon outdoors on a road*, and the stationing time cannot exceed one hour:

- There must be at least one competent person overseeing the cylinder wagon; or
- The stationing location is at least 15 metres away from highly populated areas, traffic-congested roads and buildings for assembly/multiple residential occupancy.

The additional condition (6) states that the parking location of a cylinder wagon laden with LPG cylinders (such as parking at night) must meet the following conditions:

- Cylinder wagons in Yau Tsim Mong District, Sham Shui Po District, Kwai Tsing District and Tsuen Wan District shall be parked in the designated car park at Tat Yeung Road, Kwai Chung;
- The parking location of cylinder wagons in districts other than those mentioned above shall be at least 15 metres away from buildings for assembly/multiple residential occupancy.

During the delivery/collection of LPG cylinders, even if there are no loading or unloading activities on the cylinder wagon, the wagon is still considered being temporarily stationed, rather than being parked as specified in the additional condition (6).

Any person who breaches the additional conditions of the LPG Cylinder Wagon Permit commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to a fine at level 2.

Apart from complying with the additional conditions, the owner and operators of a cylinder wagon should also have a clear understanding of the provisions in Part VI of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations for cylinder wagons, such as the notification of change of ownership, certain equipment to be carried on a gas vehicle and competent persons who can be employed on gas vehicles, etc. Relevant provisions have been excerpted in "Guidance Note GU11 - Application for Cylinder Wagon Permit" for the reference of relevant people.

* The stationing/parking position and other operations of the wagon must also meet the requirements of other regulations





Case Study

Register for the Reminder Service of Expiry Date of LPG Vehicle Fuel Tank for Revalidation through “eCheckDate”

Under the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, the owner of an LPG vehicle fuel tank shall not use the fuel tank to contain LPG unless it has been tested and examined at least once every 5 years to ascertain that the fuel tank is safe to be used continuously. The owner of the fuel tank (i.e. the LPG vehicle owner) who contravenes the requirements commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a daily penalty of \$1,000.

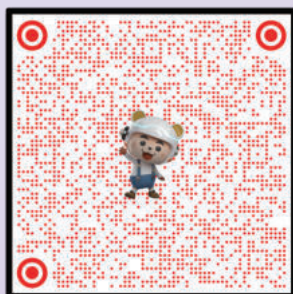


Owners or agents of LPG vehicles can check on their own the latest inspection date marked on the fuel tank. To facilitate the owners and agents, the Gas Standards Office has also launched the second generation of the “eCheckDate” service. Vehicle owners or agents can obtain information on the expiry date of the fuel tank for revalidation instantly by entering the vehicle registration number or fuel tank serial number of the LPG vehicles on the webpage of “eCheckDate” .



In addition, the “eCheckDate” webpage now has a new reminder service regarding the expiry date of LPG vehicle fuel tank for revalidation. Owners or agents of LPG vehicles may register for the service so that they can arrange for a re-examination of the fuel tank as early as possible before the expiry of the five-year regular re-examination period. The registration procedure is simple. Owners or agents just need to enter the vehicle registration number/fuel tank serial number and chassis number (the last four digits) of the LPG vehicles and their email address on the “eCheckDate” webpage of the EMSD.

For more information, please scan the QR code to visit the “eCheckDate” webpage.





Statistics

Gas-related Incident and Prosecution Statistics by Type

