

GAS SAFETY Bulletin ISSUE 40

December 2025



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機電工程署
EMSD



Message from the Editor

Hello everyone! This issue of Gas Safety Bulletin covers the Gas Safety Briefing and the RGI Award Scheme held in 2025, with the aim of promoting higher technical standards across the trade. In addition, we outline the safety and inspection requirements for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage installations, reminding owners to properly manage and operate their equipment. We also introduce the optimisation of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Technicians Handling Mildly Flammable Refrigerant of Household Air-conditioners.

Meanwhile, this issue further outlines the revisions made to the Code of Practice for LPG Cylinder Distributors, and the Information Booklet on the LPG Cylinder Distributor Safety Performance Recognition Scheme. In the area of legal knowledge, we will explore safety precautions for works in the vicinity of gas pipes through a case analyse, helping the industry better understand the relevant safety requirements.

Finally, we present an overview of the approval and examination procedures for LPG cylinders, and the revalidation requirements for LPG vehicle fuel tanks, ensuring that the industry remains compliant with the latest safety standards.



Message from
the Editor

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Feature

Gas Safety Briefing 2025

The Gas Safety Briefing 2025 was successfully held on 24 July at the Hong Kong Central Library. Organised by the Gas Standards Office, with representatives from the Vocational Training Council (VTC) and the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (HKCG), the briefing provided a wealth of information to approximately 150 participants. The topics covered included New Measures and Points to Note for Registered Gas Installers (RGIs) and Registered Gas Contractors, highlighting the importance of trade compliance; Knowing More about Apprenticeship Schemes – Employment of Young Persons in Designated Trades, outlining the apprenticeship schemes' frameworks and advantages and encouraging young people to join the gas trade; Introduction of Smart Cooking Appliances and Related Devices, sharing new technologies in cooking appliances; and Training and Development of Gas Engineering Students, exploring professional recognition and articulation arrangements. The briefing was conducted in a lively atmosphere, with participants actively raising questions that fostered knowledge exchange within the trade.



Feature



For the briefing content and details of the responses to the questions raised, please visit the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's (EMSD) website:

https://www.emsd.gov.hk/tc/gas_safety/information_for_the_gas_trade/online_learning/gas_safety_seminar_briefing_in_2025/index.html





Feature

RGI Award Scheme 2025

With the aim of enhancing the safety awareness and technical skills of RGIs, while commending RGIs with outstanding performance to set role models for the trade, thereby encouraging continuing professional development (CPD) within the profession, the Gas Standards Office organised the RGI Award Scheme 2025. The adjudication for the residential category, and the industrial and commercial category were completed on 19 August and 20 October 2025 respectively, with results confirmed as follows. We extend our warmest congratulations to all the awardees and our gratitude to the co-organisers, including the Pro-Act by the VTC, the Office of the Director of Apprenticeship of the VTC and the HKCG. Details of the awards ceremony will be announced in due course.

2025 優秀註冊氣體裝置技工比賽

截止報名日期 8月8日

比賽獎項：

- 冠軍獎狀及 3,000元禮券(1位)
- 亞軍獎狀及 2,000元禮券(1位)
- 季軍獎狀及 1,000元禮券(1位)
- 優異獎 獎狀及500元禮券(2位)

比賽目的：

- 提升註冊氣體裝置技工的安全意識及技術水平
- 嘉許表現優秀的註冊氣體裝置技工，樹立行業楷模
- 鼓勵註冊氣體裝置技工持續進修

參賽資格：

- 參加者必須是受僱於註冊氣體工程承辦商的註冊氣體裝置技工；
- 參加者必須在3年內未曾因違反《氣體安全條例》而被定罪或作出紀律處分；
- 參加者必須曾出席最少一個CPD單元或單元二課程。

比賽組別：

- 住宅組 (持有第1類至第4類的技工)
- 工商業組 (持有第5類至第6類的技工)

報名辦法：

- E&M Trade App
- 請掃描以下二維碼填寫以下報名表格

比賽形式：

- 第一階段：網上測試選擇題
- 第二階段：面試

如有查詢，請於辦公時間致電 2802 3228 與「優秀註冊氣體裝置技工比賽2025」籌辦小組聯絡。

主辦機構： 機電工程署 EMSD 合辦機構： ACT 新加坡職業訓練局

*主辦機構有權修改各項規則，並應及時通知其他有關安排，而無須事先通知。

	Awardees for the Residential Category	Awardees for the Industrial and Commercial Category
Champion	NG Ka-wing	LEE Chi-hung
First Runner-up	CHAN Kwun-chai	HO Hung
Second Runner-up	CHENG Chi-wing	LAM Hoi-man
Merit Award	TSANG Hin-yan	LAI Kok-san
	LO Hon-leung	HUI Kim-ting





Feature

Safety and Inspection of LPG Storage Installations

What is an LPG Storage Installation?

An LPG storage installation refers to a gas installation storing LPG with an aggregated nominal water capacity of more than 130 litres. Where the installation supplies gas to consumers through pipes, it also includes the outlet pipework, vaporisers and pressure-regulating installations. LPG storage installations are generally classified into the following three types:

- (a) LPG compounds with bulk tanks;
- (b) piped cylinder stores; and
- (c) standby cylinder stores.



Feature



LPG storage installations



Feature

Safety and Inspection of LPG Storage Installations



Feature

Safety and Inspection of LPG Storage Installations

What are the Duties of the Owners?

According to Regulation 6B of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, the owners of a notifiable gas installation (e.g. an LPG storage installation) shall maintain and operate the installation in a safe condition for the prevention of fire, explosion or other danger arising from the installation.

According to Regulation 6C of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, owners of an LPG storage installation must ensure that the installation is inspected by a competent person at least once a year, so as to ascertain that the installation has been maintained and operated in accordance with Regulation 6B. Following each inspection, the owners must complete an inspection report (Form 109) and submit a copy of the report to the Gas Authority (GA) within four weeks after the inspection. Failure to conduct the inspection by the due date and/or to submit a copy of the report on time is an offence and liable to prosecution.

To fulfil the said duties, the owners must:

- arrange for a Class 2 Competent Person to conduct the statutory inspection of their installations at least once a year. Prior to the statutory inspection, the owners must rectify all non-compliant issues identified during routine inspections, otherwise it will be regarded as a contravention of Regulation 6B;
- arrange for a Class 1 Competent Person to conduct the statutory inspection of all LPG tanks and vaporisers (if any) at least once every five years;
- operate, inspect and maintain the installations in accordance with the Code of Practice for Hong Kong LPG Industry;
- maintain records of all inspections, maintenance or modification works of the installations;
- store all LPG cylinders (if any) properly;
- rectify deficiencies in the installations, risks in the surrounding environment and other potential issues promptly;
- keep records of all construction and use of the installations approved by the GA;
- ensure that personnel working on the installations are appropriately trained and competent;
- remove weeds and debris inside or around the installations, while maintaining a good standard of housekeeping;
- keep the gates locked to ensure security of the installations;
- ensure that all vehicles are parked at a safe distance from the installations, except for LPG road tankers or cylinder wagons during unloading gas;
- ensure that all operational staff are familiar with the installations' operating procedures and contingency measures; and
- conduct routine inspections of the installations regularly.



Feature

Optimisation of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Technicians Handling Mildly Flammable Refrigerant of Household Air-conditioners

The Government launched the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Technicians Handling Mildly Flammable Refrigerant of Household Air-conditioners (Voluntary Registration Scheme) in May 2023 to encourage industry practitioners to enhance their skills and safety awareness in handling mildly flammable refrigerants of household air-conditioners. As of the end of November 2025, approximately 2 000 registration cards were issued. The EMSD plans to optimise the Voluntary Registration Scheme by extending the registration validity period from the original three years to five years, aiming to provide longer-term recognition of qualifications for registered technicians and reduce the administrative burden of frequent renewals, with implementation expected in the first quarter of 2026.

Household air-conditioners using R32 refrigerants becoming common in the market. Due to the lower flammability of R32 refrigerant, its installation, inspection and maintenance must be carried out by properly trained technicians.



Salient points of the optimisation are as follows:

- Registration Validity Period: To be extended to five years.
- Targets: All new applicants and currently registered technicians. Existing registered technicians will be notified of the details in writing by the EMSD. They need not take any action and their validity period will be automatically extended.
- Registration and Renewal Requirements: Remain unchanged.



The extension of the registration validity period aims to ease the technicians' pressure from registration renewal and continuously promotes safe work practices. As the scheme is voluntary in nature, a significant impact on the trade or the public is not expected.



Feature

Optimisation of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Technicians Handling Mildly Flammable Refrigerant of Household Air-conditioners

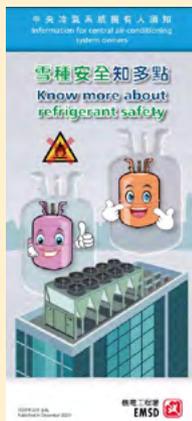
Safety Corner

- 1 Promotional Video on Safe Use of Mildly Flammable Refrigerant Household Air Conditioners



<https://www.emsd.gov.hk/frsafety/eng/video-gallery/index.html>

- 2 Information for central air-conditioning system owners – Know more about refrigerant safety



EMSD has published a promotional pamphlet to remind central air conditioning system owners of important refrigerant safety considerations. To view the pamphlet, please visit the following link or scan the QR code:



https://www.emsd.gov.hk/frsafety/filemanager/en/publication/II_Know_more_about_refrigerant_safety.pdf

The EMSD calls upon all technicians engaged in the installation and maintenance of household air-conditioners to enrol in accredited training courses as soon as possible and actively participate in the Voluntary Registration Scheme to enhance their professional qualifications and competitiveness. Besides, when purchasing household air-conditioners that use mildly flammable refrigerants, members of the public should give priority to technicians registered under this scheme for installation and maintenance to ensure the work quality and safety. For detailed information on the scheme and its application procedures, please visit the EMSD website at <https://www.emsd.gov.hk>.





Case Study

Improving Safety Management Standards of LPG Cylinders

To enhance the safety management of LPG cylinders, the EMSD published the revised editions of the Code of Practice for LPG Cylinder Distributors, and the Information Booklet on the LPG Cylinder Distributor Safety Performance Recognition Scheme in August 2025. Fully taken into account the actual operational circumstances of the industry, the revisions aimed to improve overall safety standards and strengthen the regulation of distributors through optimised safety operational guidelines.

The revisions incorporated innovation and technology elements such as an LPG cylinder tracking system to promote active use of the system by registered gas supply companies (RGSCs) and their distributors, thereby comprehensively enhancing safety management across all stages from supply, distribution to use of LPG cylinders. Moreover, to encourage trial implementation of the LPG cylinder tracking system by the industry, the revisions introduced an incentive mechanism awarding bonus points to distributors who have installed and effectively utilised the system.

The system records key information, such as the LPG cylinder movements throughout the supply chain, usage history and safety inspections, contributing to enhancing the traceability and management efficiency of LPG cylinders, thereby strengthening overall safety standards. Currently, a number of RGSCs have commenced deployment or testing of the relevant technological solution. The EMSD will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the trials and encourage the industry to progress from initial trials to full implementation, with a view to scaling up the application of the system.



Code of Practice for LPG Cylinder Distributors (Eighth Edition)



LPG Cylinder Distributor Safety Performance Recognition Scheme



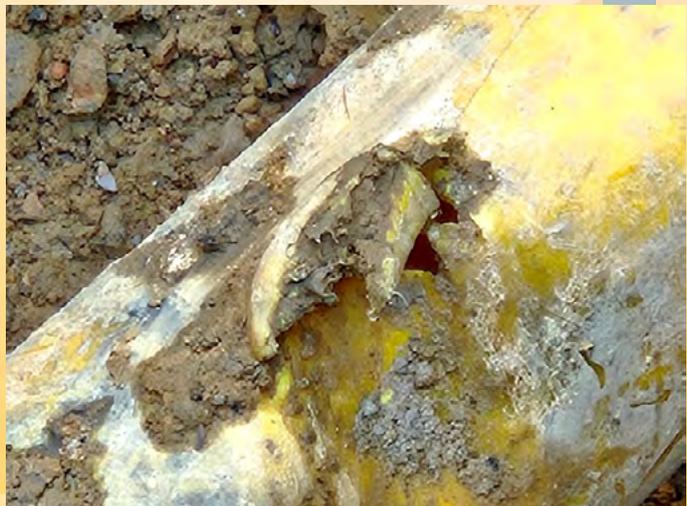
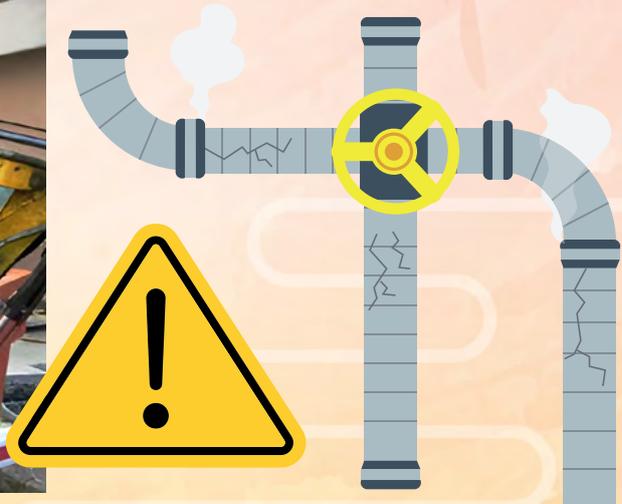
Legal Knowledge

Safety Precautions for Works in the Vicinity of Gas Pipes

Under regulation 23A of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations (Cap. 51B), works contractors and workers carrying out demolition, excavation or other ground penetration works in the vicinity of a gas pipe shall, before commencement of and during the works, take all reasonable steps and measures to ascertain the position of the gas pipe and protect it, in order to prevent any interruption to gas supply caused by damage to the pipe during the works.

In early 2025, an incident involving gas pipe damage occurred. An underground gas pipe was damaged during an excavation works undertaken by a works contractor, resulting in a gas leak and interruption to the gas supply to multiple households. Investigation revealed that the contractor concerned mistakenly believed there were no underground gas pipes in the works areas, thus failing to take reasonable steps to ascertain their presence before commencing the works, ultimately led to gas pipe damage. The contractor concerned was subsequently convicted and fined.

Legal
Knowledge





Legal Knowledge

Safety Precautions for Works in the Vicinity of Gas Pipes

Works contractors are reminded that gas pipes may be laid beneath roads and pavements, within private housing estates or at indoor locations. They therefore shall, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Avoidance of Damage to Gas Pipes (2nd Edition) (CoP), take the following steps and measures to ascertain the positions of gas pipes and protect them from damage before commencement of and during the works:

Before commencement of the works:

1. obtain layout plans and relevant information of underground gas pipes within and in the vicinity of the works area from RGSCs;
2. use a pipe locating device to identify the alignment and depth of gas pipes by trained and experienced personnel (i.e. Competent Persons), and provide the persons carrying out the works with an “underground gas pipes survey record” and brief them on its content;
3. dig trial holes to confirm the positions of gas pipes;
4. once the positions of pipes are confirmed, mark their alignment and depth on the road surface clearly; and
5. ensure that the persons carrying out the works can access the information on the positions of gas pipes and understand clearly the safety precautions required.



In the course of works:

1. maintain adequate safety clearance from the underground gas pipes during excavation;
2. use hand tools to excavate;
3. be aware of the markings or warning tapes on the road surface regarding the positions of gas pipes;
4. excavate from the sides of gas pipes rather than on top of them as far as possible;
5. dig laterally to expose the gas pipes;
6. keep a minimum clearance of one metre from both sides of a gas pipe when using machines;
7. provide adequate support for exposed underground gas pipes and ensure proper backfilling;
8. where the type of a pipe is unclear, always assume that it is in use and may be hazardous; and
9. contact the relevant RGSC or gas pipe owner to ascertain whether the pipe is a gas pipe if necessary.



The above steps and measures are excerpted from the aforementioned CoP. Please visit the EMSD’s website (www.emsd.gov.hk) to view and download the complete CoP (path: Gas Safety > Publications > Codes of Practice) for details of the requirements set out therein.





Did You Know

Approval and Examination of LPG Cylinders

According to the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), LPG cylinders refer to receptacles with a water capacity of not more than 150 litres that are used, or to be used to contain LPG. Regulation 7(1) of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations (Cap. 51B) stipulates that LPG cylinders shall not be used in Hong Kong unless the GA is satisfied that they can be used for containing LPG. To comply with the relevant requirements, owners of LPG cylinders shall submit the design of LPG cylinders to the GA for type approval in writing.

All LPG cylinders shall be periodically examined and inspected to ensure compliance with safety requirements. Regulation 8(2) of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations stipulates that LPG cylinders (other than disposable LPG cylinders) shall not be used to contain LPG unless they have been tested and examined not less than once in the five years period immediately preceding such use to ascertain whether they are safe to be so used. Such examination is commonly known as “revalidation”. Owners of LPG cylinders shall appoint Competent Persons (Class 1b) to supervise the revalidation and issue test certificates. For details, please refer to the Code of Practice for Hong Kong LPG Industry, Module 9 – LPG Cylinders published by the Gas Standards Office.

Did You Know



The Code of Practice can be downloaded from the EMSD's website at https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/gas_safety/publications/codes_of_practice/index.html.





Did You Know

Revalidation Requirements for LPG Vehicle Fuel Tanks

In connection with the above revalidation requirements, LPG vehicle fuel tanks shall also be tested and examined (i.e. revalidated) not less than once every five years to ascertain whether they are safe to be used under the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations (Cap. 51B). LPG vehicle owners should pay attention to the expiry date for the periodic revalidation of their vehicles' fuel tanks and arrange for revalidation in good time. Owners who have the revalidation carried out after the expiry date contravene the Gas Safety Ordinance and are liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a daily penalty of \$1,000. Vehicle owners can check on their own the latest revalidation date marked on the LPG vehicle fuel tanks and should arrange for revalidation at a suitable LPG vehicle maintenance workshop within five years from that date.

Did You Know

Leaflet – LPG Vehicle Fuel Tank 5-Yearly Revalidation

https://www.emsd.gov.hk/filemanager/en/content_392/LPG_Vehicle_Fuel_Tank_5-Yearly_Revalidation_Leaflet.pdf





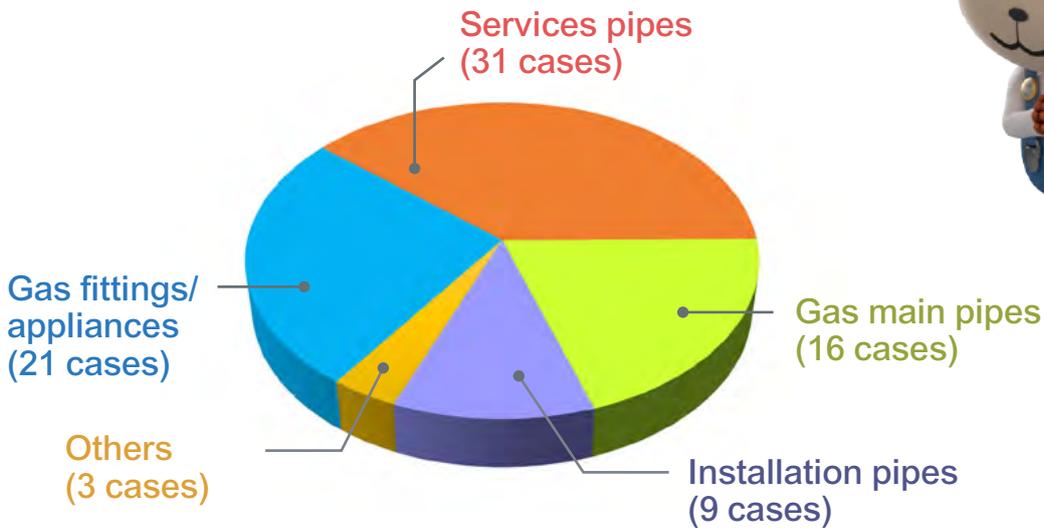
Statistics

Gas-related Incident and Prosecution Statistics by Type (January to June 2025)

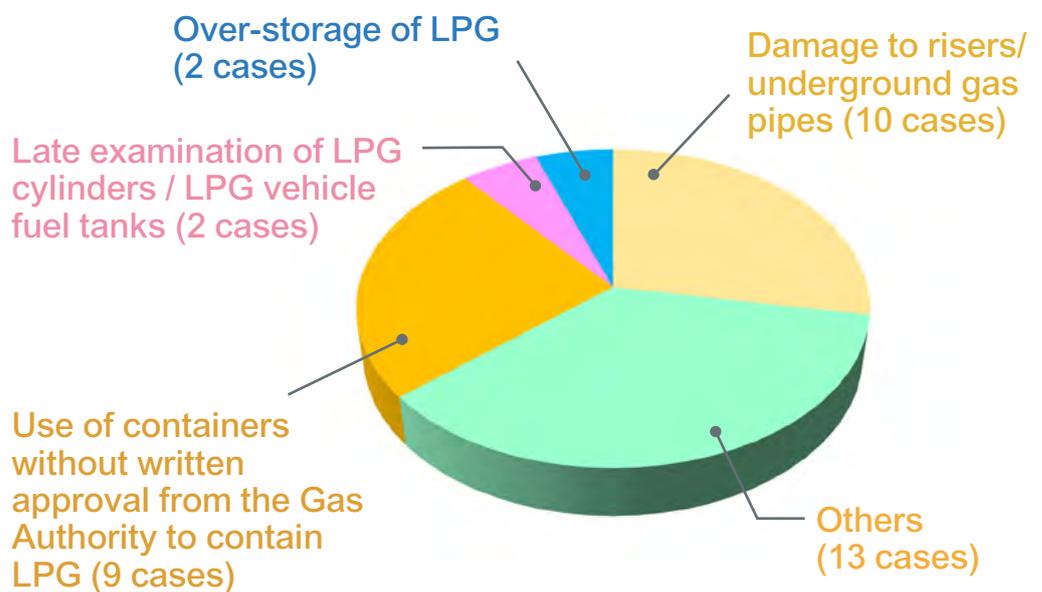
Statistics



Gas-related Incidents by Type (January to June 2025)



Gas-related Prosecution Cases by Type (January to June 2025)





Until We Meet Again

This marks the final issue of the Gas Safety Bulletin. We would like to extend our gratitude to all our industry partners and readers for your longstanding support. With the advancement of social media, the Gas Safety Bulletin will continue in a new format. Important gas safety-related information will be continuously disseminated via various social media platforms in the future, such as the Facebook page and Instagram (E&M Young Ambassador). We look forward to reconnecting with you there and working together to enhance gas safety!

Until We
Meet Again



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