

GAS SAFETY Bulletin

Message from the Editor

Greetings to all. This issue of Gas Safety Bulletin introduces the List of Competent Persons (Class 6) System, explain how to handle used or abandoned liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders and briefly report on the 2018 Gas Safety Briefing. Readers can also find useful legal knowledge about gas safety, as well as gas-related incident and prosecution statistics by type of cases in 2017 for reference.

Continuous Enhancement of the List of Competent Persons (Class 6) System

Since the List of Competent Persons (Class 6) (CP6) System was launched by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in 1999, a total of over 1 200 practitioners in Hong Kong have been included on the list. The CP6 approved for inclusion on the list are required to have completed the LPG Vehicle Servicing Programme of the Vocational Training Council and received relevant on-the-job training. This System is developed with the aim to ensure that only persons with the above qualifications and experience or those under their supervision may undertake maintenance and repair work on the fuel system of LPG vehicles (mainly taxis and light buses), including (i) replacement of LPG fuel tank, or (ii) maintenance, repair or replacement of vaporiser, pipework, pressure regulator, mixer and associated components, with a view to protecting public safety.

In order to facilitate LPG vehicle owners, drivers and members of the public to identify whether CP6 are employed at a vehicle maintenance workshop, the EMSD has issued three-year certificates and identification cards (commonly known as "white cards") to all CP6 in Hong Kong since May 2015. This is generally recognised by the trade, which agrees that such measure contributes to further acknowledging the qualifications and recognition of CP6, enabling further enhancement of the LPG vehicle maintenance trade.

Existing CP6 certificates and identification cards have started to expire from May 2018 onwards. Holders may replace their existing certificates and identification cards with new ones starting from April this year. The new identification cards are classified into gold cards and silver cards to further differentiate whether holders possess the qualification for repairing and maintaining the fuel system of LPG vehicles equipped with an internal fuel pump (i.e. the LPG fuel injection system).

The CP6 with gold cards are qualified to repair and maintain the fuel system of LPG vehicles equipped with an



Samples of the gold card and silver card



internal fuel pump, while CP6 with silver cards are not allowed to do so.

The EMSD notified all CP6 of the above arrangements by mail earlier this year. Meanwhile, to facilitate expression of views by the trade on the future arrangements of renewing CP6 certificates and identification cards as well as the development of the LPG vehicle maintenance sector, the EMSD organised four seminar-cum-sharing sessions in March and April this year to increase awareness of interested members of the trade on the list of CP6 system and exchange views with the participants.

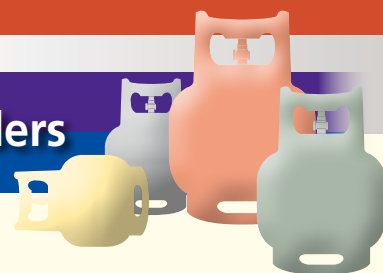


The seminar-cum-sharing sessions on the list of CP6 system are well attended by members of the LPG vehicle trade.

Scan the QR code for more relevant information.

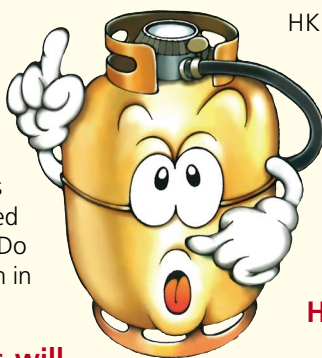


How to Handle Used or Abandoned LPG Cylinders



Handling of Used LPG Cylinders

Users of cylinder LPG should note that they shall only purchase LPG from LPG distributors approved by registered gas supply companies. They should contact the LPG distributor to collect the LPG cylinder as soon as possible when LPG in such cylinder has been used up or when it is no longer necessary to use LPG. Do not store excessive LPG cylinders or abandon them in public places.



HK\$1,500. Besides, if the total nominal water capacity of LPG cylinders (including empty cylinders) at the LPG cylinder disposal site is over 130 litres, the offender may have also violated relevant regulations of the Gas Safety Ordinance (Chapter 51 of the Laws of Hong Kong), and is liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of HK\$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

Recyclers and Refuse Collection Points will not Receive LPG Cylinders

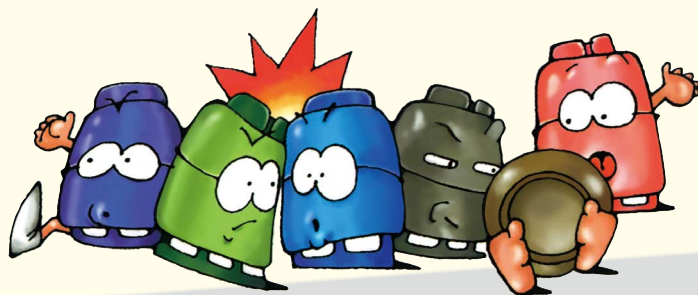
Even though the fuel in the LPG cylinder is soon to be exhausted and the amount of gas output is not sufficient to drive the gas installations, there is still a small amount of LPG remaining inside the cylinder. LPG is a flammable substance; improper handling or removing the valve of an LPG cylinder may result in serious consequences. Therefore, EMSD has reminded recyclers in various districts not to recycle and dismantle LPG cylinders as general waste so as to protect public safety. In addition, members of the public should not abandon LPG cylinders at refuse collection points.

Handling of Abandoned LPG Cylinders

In case abandoned or unattended LPG cylinders are found in public places, please call the 24-hour emergency hotlines of respective registered gas supply companies to request collection of cylinders. The respective registered gas supply companies can be identified from the colour of and brand name on the cylinder. You may also call the government hotline on 1823 for follow-up. The table below lists the 24-hour emergency hotlines and enquiry telephone numbers of registered gas supply companies for reference.

Indiscriminate Disposal of LPG Cylinders is Illegal

Anyone who illegally disposes waste in public places is subject to prosecution and liable to a fixed penalty of




Brand Name	加德士 Caltex	半島 Peninsula	協和 Concord	中石化 Sinopec	標準 Esso	美孚 Mobil	蜆殼石油氣/ 盾牌 Shell Gas/BP	新海 NewOcean
Reference Photo of LPG								
24-hour Emergency Hotline	6196 1450		2333 4215	2433 2111	2435 4511	2495 3518	2322 2000	6672 3328
Enquiry Number	2588 7640		2311 6788	2137 6200	800 933 696		2435 8388	2891 8961

2018 Gas Safety Briefing

As the regulator for gas safety in Hong Kong, the EMSD places great emphasis on communicating with the trade. The Gas Safety Briefing offers a good opportunity for exchanges between the EMSD and the gas trade. We very much hope that through this kind of gathering, members of the trade will learn more about the development of the gas industry as well as matters to note at work.

The Gas Safety Briefing this year was successfully held on 26 March 2018 at the lecture hall of the Hong Kong Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui. Engineers from the Gas Standards Office of EMSD and guest speakers from the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited and the Towngas Engineering Academy delivered in detail different topics on gas safety matters to the attendees. Topics included points to note and latest information for registered gas installers and registered gas contractors, matters to note about the safety and use of LPG cylinder wagons, safety tips on gas installations and case sharing, matters to note about on-site testing and commissioning of gas appliances for commercial kitchens, as well as professional development in gas engineering.

To find out more about the briefing and replies to the enquiries, please browse the EMSD's website at https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/gas_safety/information_for_the_gas_trade/index.html. 



Gas Safety Briefing this year



Safety Measures for Replacement of Gas Meter Control Valves

A gas leakage incident case occurred earlier which involved a registered gas installer who had not taken reasonable steps to suspend the gas supply when carrying out gas meter replacement works, eventually causing a fire. The installer suffered burns and was sent to the hospital.

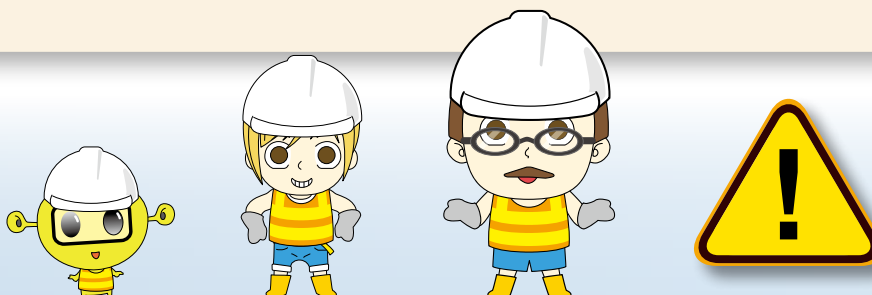
The registered gas installer of the case did not disconnect the gas supply during replacement of the gas meter and the gas meter control valve, and even used a wet towel as a seal to temporarily block the end of the service pipe. As this could not effectively prevent escape of gas from the pipe, a fire broke out when the installer used an electric hand drill beside it. The registered gas installer concerned was prosecuted for contravening Regulation 5(1) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations and fined.

According to the requirements under Regulation 5(1) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations, in order to avoid constituting a danger to any person or property, no person shall carry out work in relation to a gas fitting in such a

manner that gas could escape unless steps are taken to prevent any escape of gas. Offenders are liable on conviction to a fine of HK\$5,000.

To ensure gas safety, registered gas contractors / registered gas installers should consider adopting the following practices when carrying out replacement works for gas meter control valves at premises where there is gas supply:

- Shut off the gas service riser valve of the premises to stop the gas supply, and only carry out replacement works upon decommissioning of the service pipe; or
- Use special gas disconnecting devices, such as pipe cap fittings for gas disconnection, in carrying out replacement works. Such gas disconnecting devices should be installed in accordance with the technical guidelines of registered gas supply companies / suppliers to ensure that the end of the gas pipe can be tightly sealed to prevent escape of gas.





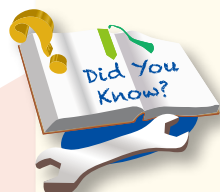
Legal Knowledge

Approval and Examination of LPG Cylinders

An LPG cylinder is a receptacle which has a water capacity of not more than 150 litres and used, or to be used, to contain LPG. According to the requirements under Regulation 7(1) of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations (Chapter 51B of the Laws of Hong Kong), an LPG cylinder must have been approved in writing by the Gas Authority ("the Authority"), which is satisfied that the cylinder is a container that can be used to contain LPG, before it can be used in Hong Kong. In this connection, owners of LPG cylinders shall submit the design of LPG cylinders to the Authority for type approval.

All LPG cylinders shall be periodically examined and tested to ensure compliance with safety requirements. According to the requirements under Regulation 8(2) of the Gas Safety (Gas

Supply) Regulations, the owner of an LPG cylinder (except a disposable cylinder) shall not use the cylinder to contain LPG unless the cylinder has been tested and examined not less than once in the five-year period immediately preceding such use to ascertain whether the cylinder is safe to be so used. This type of examination is commonly known as revalidation. Owners of LPG cylinders shall appoint Competent Persons (Class 1b) to supervise the conducting of 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. 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.

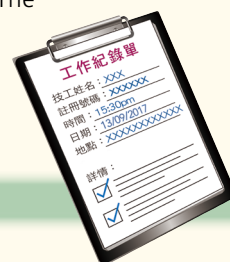


Regular Safety Inspection of Domestic LPG Installation

Gas leakage from domestic LPG installation may increase the gas consumption and affect the stable operation of gas appliances. If the leakage is serious, it may even cause fire or explosion, resulting in loss of life and damage of property.

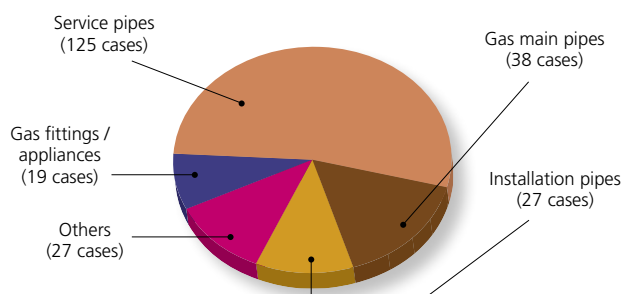
To ensure that the domestic LPG installation operates safely and maintains in good condition, regular safety inspection on the gas cookers, water heaters, pipes, etc. should be conducted once every 18 months. The registered gas supply company and the registered gas contractor may take the initiative to contact the occupants and arrange in advance an appropriate time for its registered gas installer to conduct the safety inspection.

The registered gas contractor will complete an inspection report upon completion of the inspection. The report shall list out the inspection details and maintenance advice (if necessary) and the occupant may obtain a copy of this report from the contractor for reference. If there is any maintenance needed to be conducted, arrangements for follow-up action should be made in a timely manner. The registered gas contractor should keep past inspection reports for record and arrangement for the next safety inspection.

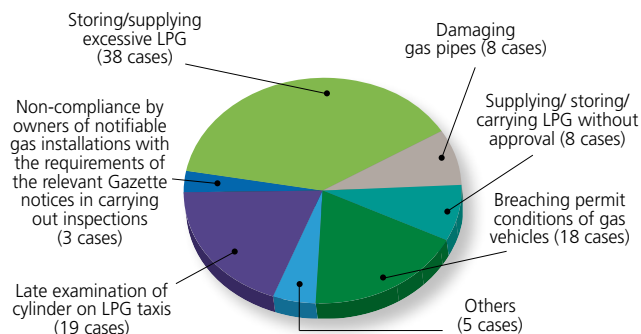


Gas-related Incident and Prosecution Statistics by Type

**Gas Incidents by Type in 2017
(January to December)**



**Prosecutions by Type for Gas-related Cases in 2017
(January to December)**



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