

GAS SAFETY Bulletin



Message from the Editor

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.



Listing Scheme for LPG Lighters

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.

Legend of Serial Number:

L	D	1	2	3	A	A
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Position	Code	Meaning of the Code
1	L	LPG lighter
2	D R	Type of lighter: Disposable lighter Refillable lighter
3 to 7		a unique code of 5 numbers/ English alphabets

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);
- (10) Manual of Remedial Measures.

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

The safety standards for LPG lighters adopted by EMSD include BS EN ISO 9994:2006+A1:2008 Lighters - Safety Specification and ASTM F-400-04 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Lighters, or equivalent internationally recognised safety standards.

Designated Recognised Certification Bodies in Mainland China

Most of the LPG lighters imported to Hong Kong are manufactured in Mainland China. As a regulatory system for the export of lighters has been set up in Mainland China, importers are required to submit a valid type-test certificate and test report issued by a recognised competent dangerous goods testing laboratory designated by AQSIQ. The list of institutions equipped with an AQSIQ-recognised competent testing laboratory is as follows. (The list is being updated by AQSIQ):

- Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
- Tianjin Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
- Ningbo Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
- Wenzhou Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
- Jiangxi Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
- Guangdong Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
- Guangxi Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau



Further information including the criteria for continuing listing, responsibility for quality assurance, requirements for products non-compliant with safety regulations, etc., is available in the Guidance Note GU 18 – Safety of LPG Lighters.

The List is updated monthly on a regular basis. For latest information about the listed models of LPG lighters, please call 2808 3683 during office hours or visit the following EMSD webpage:

http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/gas_reg_lghtr.shtml

Points to Note When Using Glass-top Built-In Gas Hobs

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. ⚠

Safe Use of Cassette Cookers

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. ⚠



Regulations for Registered Gas Installers

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. ⚠

Points to Note on Safety and Use of LPG Cylinder Wagons


According to regulation 25(2) of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, no person shall use a motor vehicle to carry on a road LPG cylinder or cylinders containing more than 130 litres of LPG unless the vehicle is a cylinder wagon issued with a valid permit for doing so. Therefore, owners of LPG-carrying vehicles must possess a valid permit and comply with all relevant gas safety regulations and permit conditions.

A cylinder wagon means a motor vehicle designed and constructed, or adapted, primarily for the conveyance of cylinders on roads. Cylinder wagons must be built in accordance with the specifications in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, as well as the requirements in the Code of Practice for the Design and Construction of LPG Cylinder Wagon. At present, there are more than 400 cylinder wagons in Hong Kong.

LPG is a highly flammable dangerous goods. To prevent gas accidents, extra care should be taken to ensure safety when using cylinder wagons to transport LPG cylinders. Here are some key points on the safety and use of cylinder wagons for your reference and compliance:

- Operators should not smoke inside a wagon when it is carrying LPG cylinders. They should also not smoke when loading or unloading the LPG cylinders.
- Two 2kg dry powder type extinguishers should be placed in a readily accessible position outside the cab of the wagon so that they will be available for use at any time.
- A cylinder wagon should not be used to convey LPG and other

goods of any description, including kerosene, diesel oil, etc., at the same time.

- Not less than 2 competent persons should be employed on the cylinder wagon when the wagon is carrying cylinders on a road or when the cylinders are being loaded or unloaded.
- A wagon, when carrying cylinders, should only be parked outdoors on the roadside for not longer than 1 hour within a 4-hour period, during which time one competent person should be on the wagon. If the wagon is unattended, it should be parked in a location which is not densely populated or congested with traffic. The wagon should also be parked at least 15 metres away from any buildings used for assembly, functioning as institutions or accommodating a large number of residents.
- A valid permit label should be displayed on the left-hand side of the wagon's windscreen.
- No material alteration, e.g., one that contravenes the specifications in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Gas Safety (Gas Supply) Regulations, should be made to a cylinder wagon for which a permit has been issued without the written approval of the Gas Authority.
- A cylinder wagon which has been damaged in a fire or an accident should no longer be used to convey LPG cylinders. The owner of such wagon should report the damage to the Gas Authority in writing within 3 working days to arrange for a re-examination of the vehicle. 



Legal Knowledge

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 reinstalled 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 where that meter was installed 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

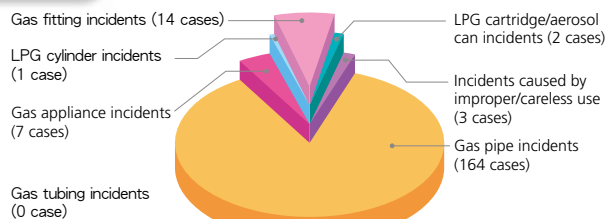
live gas pipe in the premises the wordings to the effect that the pipe contains gas for easy identification.

Where the meter has not been reinstalled 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 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.

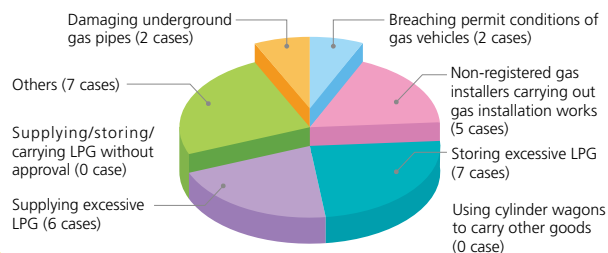
Any person who contravenes regulation 14(2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum penalty of a fine at Level 2. For information about the requirements for installation or removal of primary meters, please visit the EMSD website <http://www.emsd.gov.hk>. 

Gas Statistics

Gas Incidents by Type in 2012 (January to October)



Prosecutions by Type for LPG-related Cases in 2012 (January to October)



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