

Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate

Safety Alert No. 33  
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## Screw plugs in cylinder outlets

### ATTENTION: LPG Cylinder Suppliers

#### What happened?

There have been a number of cases of LPG gas cylinders leaking in vehicles, where the valve was either accidentally opened, or where it had not been closed fully. Legislative changes will make it mandatory for all cylinders offered for sale to have a screw plug to be fitted in the outlet valve of the cylinder. The term "plug" includes a cap on male thread outlets where applicable. This will substantially decrease the risk of leakage from the cylinder.

#### Key issues

The current requirement in the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004 is for screw plugs to be made available to customers who purchase gas in cylinders. Amendments effective from 1 April 2008 will mandate that LPG suppliers provide a screw plug in the outlet of the cylinder.

Schedule 7 (Safety requirements for transporting cylinders in vehicles) will read:

#### Part 3

##### **7. Cylinders for supply of LPG must have screw plugs:**

A person who supplies LPG to consumers in cylinders with a capacity of 9kg or less must ensure each cylinder is fitted with a screw plug that—

- (a) is inserted into the cylinder outlet; and
- (b) allows for its easy removal by a consumer.

LPG suppliers should also be aware of the other related requirements which include:

##### **8. Cylinders not to be overfilled:**

A person who supplies LPG to consumers must, if filling a cylinder with LPG, fill the cylinder in a way that prevents it being overfilled.

##### **9. Signage required at places where cylinders are filled or exchanged:**

A person who supplies LPG to consumers must ensure a notice stating the requirements under Part 2 is displayed at each place where the person fills or exchanges cylinders.

The above obligations are safety requirements, and s708A of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* makes it an offence not to comply with a safety requirement, carrying a maximum penalty of \$37,500.

#### Recommendations

LPG suppliers must ensure that by 1 April 2008 all cylinders they supply with LPG to consumers have suitable screw plugs fitted, including both exchange cylinders and cylinders filled by decanting on-site. It is recommended that the consumer be provided with clear instructions for the plug's use including how to remove it easily and that it should be used whenever the cylinder is not in use.



Examples of easily-removed screw plugs



Plug with instructions



Cap on male thread outlet

#### Contact for further information

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