



NCASSTM
NATIONWIDE
CATERERS
ASSOCIATION

Cylinder Day

A Quick Guide to LPG Cylinder Safety

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1. Check LPG cylinders for damage. The cylinder may have been damaged during prior use which will undermine its integrity.

This damage could compromise the structure of the cylinder and increase the chances of a gas leak.

Therefore, before accepting and using a cylinder from a supplier check for:

- Dents
- Scratches
- Scrapes
- Gouges

Do not use damaged cylinders and instead return them to the supplier.

2. Check for leaks - carry out a quick leak check to make sure that you are not accepting a faulty, leaking cylinder that could compromise the safety of your business and those around you.

Spray leak detection fluid around the cylinder valve and look for bubbles that are activating - an indication that the cylinder is leaking!

3. Ensure the plastic bung is fitted. The plastic bung helps to prevent leaks. It must be in place when the cylinders are not in use regardless of whether they are full or empty.



Ensure that the plastic bung is present upon delivery/receipt of new cylinders.

4. Have a safe and suitable means of transporting cylinders.

- Avoid strapping cylinders into car seats with seat belts, stowing in the footwell of vehicles or wedging into the back of vans in amongst combustible materials and ignition sources!
- Do not smoke in or around vehicles that are being used to transport or store LPG cylinders. LPG is highly explosive!
- Never transport cylinders whilst

they are connected and in use.

- Cylinders must not be directly accessible from the inside of a mobile catering vehicle or trailer unit.

- In cars & vans - use a purpose-built storage cage or locker to ensure that the cylinders remain upright and are protected from damage and impact. Proper storage can have dual use – it can support safe transport and provide tamper proof storage whilst trading.

In mobile catering vehicles and trailers – use a purpose-built ventilated storage compartment incorporated into the unit. If this compartment is also used to connect and use cylinders, then it must only be accessible from the outside of the catering unit, gas tight to the catering area and made of at least half hour fire rated material.

- Use suitable restraints and straps to secure cylinders within the storage compartment in an upright position and prevent damage.
- Ensure there is safety warning signage in place on the storage compartment and vehicle so that LPG and its potential hazards can be easily identified.

Examples of suitable signage.



If safe and suitable arrangements can not be made for transportation of cylinders, then arrange with the cylinder supplier to deliver cylinders directly to the trading site.

5. Ensure safe siting of cylinders

– on hard standing firm ground which allows for adequate distancing all around the trading unit.

There must be a minimum distance of 1m between LPG cylinders and:

- Ignitable sources e.g., generators and cooking appliances
- Combustible materials e.g., rubbish and vegetation

There must be a minimum distance of 2m between LPG cylinders and:

- Un-trapped drains and unsealed rain gullies
- Openings to lower levels or cellars

6. Ensure the correct methods of connections are in place relevant to the number of appliances and cylinders to be connected.

The correct flexible hoses, fixed pipework and connections should be used as applicable to connect



Incorrect transport - cylinder transported in the back of a van surrounded by an accumulation of combustible materials.



Incorrect transport – cylinders loosely stowed in the footwell of a vehicle.



Example of a transport storage locker.



Cylinders transported inside a storage locker secured upright with suitable straps.

cylinders for the type of set up e.g. fixed site, trailer unit, gazebo.

A regulator should be fitted onto all installations to reduce pressure from cylinders. This must be an Over Pressure Shut off (OPSO) regulator if multiple cylinders are connected to an appliance.

If multiple cylinders are connected to the same appliance, then they must be interconnected and have a single acting quarter turn lever valve to act as the emergency control valve (ECV), to enable the gas to be isolated quickly in an emergency.

The cylinders must be correctly sized for the appliances and pressure demands required. If the cylinder is undersized for the

appliances in use, then this can be dangerous leading to incomplete combustion and the production of Carbon Monoxide.

Consult with a Gas Safe engineer who is qualified and competent in LPG for advice on the correct set up, and connection requirements.

[Guidance on the correct set up conditions are outlined in the gas safety checklists included in the NCASS Safety Management System.](#)

Further details on the correct cylinder connections are included in the [NCASS Safe Use of LPG in Mobile and Outdoor Catering online training course](#). This is essential training for anyone using LPG.

7. Ensure that the correct safety procedure is followed for connecting and disconnecting cylinders to appliances (on/off procedures).

Refer to the relevant NCASS on/off procedures as outlined within the gas safety checklists that are included in the NCASS Safety Management System for:

- Vehicles/Trailers
- Gazebos/Marquees



For ease of reference these procedures have also been summarised on these fact sheets

- [Vehicles/Trailers](#)
- [Gazebos/Marquees](#)

Ensure the essential safety kit is available to support with the on/off procedures.

[See the essential safety kit fact sheet.](#)

8. Be clear on what to do if a gas leak is detected whilst connecting and using cylinders by having an emergency protocol in place.

If whilst connecting the cylinder and implementing the 'on procedure' a leak is detected, then there will be key safety checks to carry out before proceeding with using the gas supply. If these checks do not resolve the leak then do not continue to set up and do not use the gas supply.

Further information on how to respond to leaks and implement emergency protocols is covered in the [NCASS Safe Use of LPG in Mobile and Outdoor Catering online training course](#). This is essential training for anyone using LPG.

Always have the emergency contact details to hand for the cylinder supplier.

Cylinders and appliances should be in good condition. If they have been damaged and you suspect there is a leak, especially inside the unit, then contact a suitably qualified gas engineer to carry out checks and repair works where applicable.

Make sure cylinders are readily accessible and can be quickly isolated in an emergency.

For further information click here:

[SMS >>](#)

[Additional resources for members – gas safety checklist >>](#)

[Gas Hub >>](#)

[LPG training course >>](#)

[LPG training for EHOS >>](#)

Contact Us

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