

# Energy Safety

Using Gas Safely in Marine Craft



Department of Consumer  
and Employment Protection  
Government of Western Australia

## Using Gas Safely in Marine Craft

When was the last time you checked your LP Gas installation?

Follow this simple checklist to see if your marine craft is safe and complies with the regulations.



*Warning labels should be displayed adjacent to the cylinder and appliance.*

- The gas cylinder should be firmly secured and cylinder valves readily accessible for ease of operation.
- Cylinder compartments shall:
  - Provide adequate protection against the weather.
  - Be constructed of material which is water and corrosion resistant.
  - Be drained and vented to the outside atmosphere in such a manner as to prevent any accumulation of leaking gas within any enclosed area of the marine craft.
- Filling damaged or out-of-test-date cylinders is illegal and can be dangerous.
- Out-of-test-date cylinders must not be filled until tested and re-stamped by a certified gas cylinder test station.
- Ensure gas refrigerator, if installed, is sealed in a cupboard or enclosed compartment and is vented to the outside.
- Ensure the craft has adequate fixed ventilation.

- Regularly check the operation of all gas appliances and, if not functioning correctly, have them checked by an authorised gas fitter.
- Manual shut-off valves shall be fitted to the inlet connection of each appliance and be accessible for operation.
- Use the cooking appliance or stove only for the purpose for which it was designed – cooking, not as a room heater.
- High pressure appliances shall not be permanently installed in a marine craft, unless approved by an authorised gas inspector.



### Combustible gas detection systems

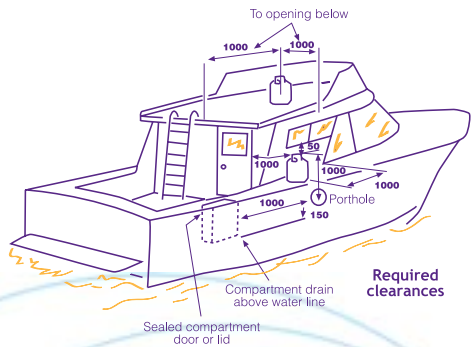
- Gas appliances shall not be installed in a marine craft below the level of the main deck, unless an “approved” combustible gas detection system is installed.
- A typical installation consists of a control panel, solenoid valve and a minimum of two sensors.





## Safety tips

1. Close appliance cocks before opening cylinder valve.
2. Periodically check connections for leaks at the appliance, regulator and cylinder with soapy water.
3. Never use a match or flame when checking for leaks.
4. Close cylinder valve when appliances are not in use or when the gas cylinder is being filled.
5. No appliance with a continuous burning flame shall be left operating in any petrol driven vessel when left unattended for a period of, or in excess of, 12 hours.



6. Use the cooking appliance or stove only for the purpose for which it was designed – cooking, not as a room heater.
7. In the event of fire, immediately close cylinder valve.

8. When the vessel is fitted with a flammable gas detector, the gas detector shall be checked to determine if flammable vapours are present and the vessel cleared of any flammable vapour before lighting any LP Gas appliance or starting the motor.
9. Close valves and fit gas tight sealing plugs to all spare cylinders not connected, whether full or empty.
10. An authorised person shall perform all additions or alterations to the LP Gas system. (Consult your LP Gas supplier.)
11. Appliances must not be altered without the authorisation of a gas inspector or the manufacturer.
12. Persons should familiarise themselves with the odour of unburnt LP Gas, to assist in the early detection of leaks.
13. All permanent ventilators, flues and vents should be checked regularly to ensure that they are clear.
14. In the event of an accidental gas leak, close cylinder valve and ventilate the vessel until the air is clear.





## Regulatory requirements

Any installation, servicing and repair work to the LP Gas system can only legally be carried out by a qualified gas fitter authorised by Energy Safety.

All authorised gas fitters are issued with a certificate of competency, permit or authorisation on the basis of their qualifications.

You can easily check a gas fitter's authorisation by requesting his/her licence number and contacting Energy Safety's Licensing Office for confirmation (details on back cover).

Unauthorised and "D.I.Y." work is illegal and can result in prosecution.

**Gasfitting is a job for the experts – always employ an authorised gas fitter.**

The gas fitter who carries out any installation work must ensure that:

- A Compliance Label is fixed to the vessel in a conspicuous position.

The Compliance Label is a statement from the gas fitter confirming compliance with regulatory requirements. It includes additional important information such as gas fitter's details, Notice of Completion number and installation date.

- The customer should also receive a copy of the Notice of Completion specifying that the work complies with the Gas Standards Regulations.

- Where a cooking appliance is to be installed, consideration should be given to the fitting of fiddle rails and pot holders to the appliance to prevent unintentional movement of cooking utensils.

Energy Safety WA Gas Standards Act 1972 Compliance Label			
Details of work:		Appliance:	
New	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipe work	Installation of Appliance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional	<input type="checkbox"/> Appliance Connection	Commissary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Installation Details: (Address or if Mobile Installation, identification/ licence number)		Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Installation Date:	Notice of Completion No:	Type of Gas:	Operating Pressure kPa:
I confirm that this gasfitting work complies with the Gas Standards Act 1972 and its regulations.			
Registered Gasfitter Name:		Gasfitter Number:	

- Ensure that a gas refrigerator, if installed, is sealed in a cupboard or other enclosed compartment and vented to the outside.
- Gas appliances installed in a marine craft shall not be fitted adjacent to any exit or means of escape from the craft and shall be located so that, in the event of a fire, the appliance will not impede any person attempting to leave the craft.

**Note:** For commercial marine craft, the West Australian department Transport may have additional requirements which are detailed in the Uniform Shipping Laws Code.

For more information, contact Transport on (08) 9216 8237.

**Advice is available by contacting the following gas suppliers:**

Kleenheat Gas	Tel: 13 21 80
Origin Energy	Tel: (08) 9439 2688
BOC gases	Tel: (08) 9456 6700



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### **Energy Safety**

20 Southport Street, West Leederville  
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Telephone: (08) 9422 5200 Facsimile: (08) 9422 5244

Email: [energysafety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:energysafety@docep.wa.gov.au) Internet: [www.energysafety.wa.gov.au](http://www.energysafety.wa.gov.au)

### **Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54**

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

### **Wageline 1300 65 52 66**

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays except Wednesday 9.00am-5.00pm

### **WorkSafe 9327 8777**

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

This booklet is available in alternative formats such as large type, computer disk and Braille. If you require the services of an interpreter, contact the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) on 131 450 and ask for connection to Labour Relations 1300 304 054 or WorkSafe 9327 8777.

The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection also has regional offices in Karratha, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Albany.

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