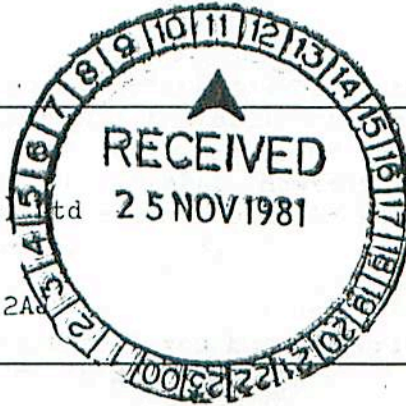




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Your reference ARW/MC

Our reference 83/FI/151/1981

Date 20 November 1981

Dear Mr Williams

LPG APPLIANCES

I will try to answer the queries that you raised in your letter dated 23 October.

1. The use of cylinders indoors

1.1 In our view there is no appreciably greater hazard from the use of a propane cylinder than from the use of a butane cylinder either indoors or outside. The choice of one or the other will normally be determined by the ambient temperature conditions which are likely to be experienced during use as this directly affects the working pressure in the cylinder.

1.2 Wherever possible we prefer to see LPG cylinders sited out of doors in a well-ventilated place with the gas supply piped to appliances indoors by properly installed pipework fitted with shut-off valves for each offtake point. Where portable appliances have to be used because, for example, of the temporary nature of the work being undertaken the size of the connected cylinder should be kept as small as is reasonably practicable, the number of cylinders used in any one place should also be kept to a minimum and these should be removed to a well-ventilated store when not in use.

1.3 The above generalisation can be applied to your plaque heaters. We would always recommend that wherever possible an LPG cylinder should be placed outside a site hut with the gas supply piped to a properly installed heater. We do this because site huts have a very poor accident record associated with the use of LPG and in hut fires cylinders have been known to explode. This however does not necessarily preclude the use of such heaters it simply means that where they have to be used for temporary heating purposes the conditions under which they are used should be closely controlled and they should be removed to a well-ventilated store when not in use.

2. Crimped hoses

2.1 Our view is that we normally prefer correctly fitted crimped hose clips for high pressure gas applications rather than the worm drive clips which in the wrong hands have in the past been badly fitted and led to accidents. However as you rightly point out a correctly fitted worm drive clip in good condition should withstand the pressures mentioned.

2.2 Your point about defining low pressure as 50 mbar or less is taken. Offhand I cannot tell you how the writer of GN CS 6 came to choose the figure of 35 mbar.

If we may we will bear your comments in mind for when the document next comes up for revision.

3. Use of non-return valves and flashback arrestors

The use of non-return valves and flashback arrestors is recommended for oxy-gas or air-gas burners only and it is not our intention that this requirement should be extended to simple gas burning appliances having a single gas connection burning induced air.

I trust that you will find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely



B PORTER
HM Chemical Inspector of Factories