

R 537.6  
5a 17  
5:1



**LP-Gas**

**Spring 1987**

**The Railroad Commission of Texas**  
Mack Wallace, Chairman  
James E. (Jim) Nugent, Commissioner  
John Sharp, Commissioner

# Safety-Gram

Government Publications  
Texas State Documents

Vol. 5, No. 1

✓ JUN 9 1987

LP-Gas Division, 1701 N. Congress, Austin, Texas

Telephone 512-463-7931  
Dallas Public Library

## FROM THE DIRECTOR .....

Recently, the LP-Gas Division has begun taking a new direction in its approach to regulating the LP-Gas industry. This new approach has become necessary to keep pace with advances in technology (both in the LP-gas and computer industries) and in the law (pertaining to insurance filings, increased company/corporate liability and criminal procedures).

To this end, the division has proposed several new Safety Rule changes which were discussed in the Fall 1986 issue of the Safety Gram. These proposed rules more clearly define the licensee's responsibilities, eliminate varying safety standards, and reduce time spent in preparing and processing LPG forms. In the near future, the division plans to further develop its educational program by conducting four seminars designed for company/corporate managers. Information concerning these seminars will be mailed to all licensees. As noted in a prior Safety Gram, an enhanced computer capacity will ensure that inspections will be conducted on a priority/timetable basis and will increase the accuracy and efficiency of division record-keeping.

The division intends to continue updating the LP-Gas Safety Rules to keep pace with advances in safety-related technology, legal procedures, and federal regulations. The division also plans to continue enhancing its computer capability to better serve members of the public and the LP-gas industry who request information, as well as increasing the operating efficiency of the division itself. Through this Safety Gram, the division will keep members of the LP-gas industry abreast of all changes occurring in the division which may affect them.

## TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE DIVISION .....

Recently, the division has received complaints from persons outside the division who attempted to place a telephone call to division personnel but got no answer. Apparently, whenever a division employee is already on the line with another caller, the telephone will not register a busy signal to the unsuccessful caller, but will continue to ring. The division has contacted the telephone company about correcting this problem.

## SHOULDER PATCHES FOR SALE .....

Shoulder patches and bars are available to be worn by employees who have successfully completed LP-gas examination(s) to show which activities the employee is qualified to perform. Should you desire a patch (usage of the patch is optional), there is a charge of \$1.00 per "certified" patch and \$.50 for each "bar" patch (which indicates the employee level of examination passed). Please contact the Licensing Section for order blanks at (512) 463-6931.

## REPLACEMENT NAMEPLATES .....

The method and means for the installation of replacement manufacturer's nameplates has been inconsistent over the past years, because guidelines for such installations were not available. Henceforth, the following guideline must be followed for the installation of a replacement manufacturer's nameplate for a pressure vessel to be considered for continued liquefied petroleum gas service in the state of Texas.

1. A replacement nameplate shall be clearly marked "REPLACEMENT" and installed only by the original manufacturer of the pressure vessel.
2. The A.S.M.E. Code Symbol and all information required by the Safety Rules of the LP-Gas Division at the time of attachment is to be stamped on the replacement nameplate only by the designated representative of the pressure vessel manufacturer.
3. The replacement nameplate shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of Section 9.40 of the LP-Gas Division Safety Rules, regardless of the original date of manufacture of the pressure vessel. Such attachment shall be made only by the **designated representative of the manufacturer** in the presence of the **Authorized A.S.M.E. Code Inspector**.
4. The replacement of a nameplate for a pressure vessel to be considered for LP-gas service in the state of Texas shall be reported to the LP-Gas Division on the LPG "Form 8" and must be signed by the manufacturer's representative and the Authorized A.S.M.E. Code Inspector.

Address any questions regarding this guideline to Thomas M. Wedemeier, Engineering Approvals, at 512-463-6934.

## ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS .....

Recently, the LP-Gas Division investigated two LP-gas explosions involving the installation of unapproved plastic pipe which is prohibited under Paragraph 9.212 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules. Both accidents resulted in severe property loss. A person was seriously injured in one incident and five fatalities occurred as a result of the other incident. In each case, it was learned that the customer had installed LP-gas piping. Both piping installations, which were not made in accordance with the LP-Gas Safety Rules, directly contributed to the accident.

These two accidents illustrate the rationale behind Paragraph 9.57 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules which requires each licensee to ensure that approved piping materials have been used (and that the piping installation meets all other Safety Rule requirements) where piping is installed by a person on his own premises. A pressure test should also be performed by a licensee prior to connecting any LP-gas piping to an LP-gas container.

## SAFETY ALERT .....

Honeywell has initiated a second major LP-gas safety alert on a combination gas valve manufactured between 1966 and 1972. The company estimates that 220,000 of these valves were installed on LP-gas heating systems during that time period. The valves must be located and replaced to ensure the safety of individuals using LP-gas heating systems, including central furnaces, boilers, pool heaters, conversion burners, floor furnaces, gas-fired logs and recreational vehicle heaters.

Model numbers being recalled are: C5133, C5134, CS5133, CS5134, V4136, V4146, V5189, V7284, V8129, V8136, V8139, V8146, V8169, V8188, VS8133, VS8138 and VS8193. Users of these LP-gas controls should immediately call Honeywell toll free at 1-800-328-8194.

**SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS .....**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>VIOLATION</b>
8-25-86	A-1 Rentals, Inc., Garner Gas Co., Permian Air Conditioning, Inc., Crawford Appliances, Inc., Gruver Oil & Gas Co., Inc., and A-1 Refrigeration	30 days probation for lack of insurance certification
8-25-86	Valley LP Gas Company	Revoked license for lack of insurance certification
8-25-86	Arrow Butane-Propane Company, and Alvin R. V.	10 days suspension followed by 30 days probation for lack of insurance certification
10-20-86	Floresville Propane, Inc.	5 days suspension followed by 30 days probation for lack of insurance certification
10-20-86	Kendrick Oil Co., Inc. Alvin R. V.	3 days suspension followed by 30 days probation for lack of insurance certification
10-20-86	Freer Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Leroy's Plumbing Service, Muenster Butane Co., Inc., d/b/a/ Cooke County Appliance, Oil Transport Co., Tideport Distributing, Inc., United LP Gas Corporation, and Staas Plumbing Co., Inc.	30 days probation for lack of insurance certification

**COURT CASES .....**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>VIOLATION</b>
6-7-86	Starr Gas Sales, Inc.	Section 9.77 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules
6-12-86	W. C. Putman d/b/a Putman Butane Svc.	26 violations of Section 9.58 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules
8-14-86	Centex Butane Co., Inc.	Section 9.58 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules
9-10-86	Felix Fuel	Section 9.59 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules
9-26-86	Enderby Gas, Inc.	Section 9.59 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules
10-11-86	H. L. Young Plumbing Co.	Chapter 113.081 of the Texas Natural Resources Code
10-13-86	Star-Tex Propane, Inc.	Sections 9.57 & 9.58 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules

**COURT CASES** .....

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>VIOLATION</b>
10-20-86	Boles Gas Sales, Inc.	Section 9.9 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules
10-27-86	Martin Gas Transport, Inc.	Section 9.9 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules
11-20-86	Gartman's Butane Co., Inc.	Chapter 113.087 of the Texas Natural Resources Code
12-5-86	Amerigas, Inc.	15 violations of Chapter 113.131(b) of the Texas Natural Resources Code
12-16-86	Tideport Petroleum, Inc. d/b/a/ Bishop Butane Company	Section 9.59 of the LP-Gas Safety Rules

*"Safety is our business"*

LP-Gas Division  
Railroad Commission of Texas  
P. O. Drawer 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967