

GAS NEW ZEALAND

Representing New Zealand's Gas Industry

smart. clean. efficient.



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Welcome to Gas New Zealand, a joint publication of the LPG Association of NZ and the Gas Association of NZ.

Gas New Zealand will be published regularly as part of the industry's efforts to encourage the direct use of natural gas and LPG into households and small businesses.

Using natural gas and LPG as a direct energy source offers numerous cost, environmental and energy efficiency benefits, and Gas New Zealand hopes to educate consumers and policy makers about the many advantages of making wider use of this strategic energy asset.

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GAS NEW ZEALAND FORUM

The Gas New Zealand forum is set to take place at the **Novotel in Rotorua on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 October, 2012.**

Wednesday 17 October will be a day of NZIGE workshops for all those who would like to attend. The forum is an excellent opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing, and gaining insights.

Following on from last year's success, which saw the first Gas NZ forum ever and 140 delegates in attendance, Gas NZ would like to build on these numbers and deliver a valuable, constructive forum for your benefit. So grab your diary and save the date for the 2012 event! Remember to keep your eyes and ears peeled – information about speakers and the forum will be coming your way soon.

NEW FLEXIBLE HOSE STANDARD LAUNCHED

The new standard AS/NZS 1869:2012 has been published, covering flexible hose and hose assemblies for most of the fuel gases.

The new standard includes allowance for new emerging technologies, with reference to very high pressure hoses, and allows for future enhancement as hose manufacturing technology and economics of manufacture develop.

Director of MNZIGE and IGEM for VapourGas Nick Foster says that the industry has been working on this standard since 2007, in response to a number of instances of hose failure and downstream component failures in Australian LPG systems.

"The initial focus was solely to address the levels of extractable plasticiser used in the manufacturing of the rubber components of the hose," he says.

"However, it quickly became apparent that the existing standard – dating from 1996 – was in need of a serious review."

Extensive research by Australian industry, and prior experiences of the New Zealand market, has clarified the issue of plasticiser extraction contaminating downstream equipment.

"This has lead to the new test method, described in the final document, for hoses intended for more than 7kPa pressure. Hose classification has been expanded and the intended application of each class of hose identified.

"A new section 1.10 has been included, detailing requirements for completed hose assemblies for LPG," says Mr. Foster.

Maximum levels of extractable matter have been identified for each class of hose and intended application, and further tests and target levels are described for analysing the extractable matter found.

DAVID ROBINSON PROFILE

Early this year, David Robinson was appointed as the first CEO of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of NZ (PEPANZ).



Tell us a bit about your background

I came into this role after spending 17 years working at Shell, so you could say I'm something of an industry veteran. I held various commercial positions across NZ, Australia and London, before coming back to NZ and helping to spin off Greenstone/Z Energy from the Shell Group. I am therefore able to take a global perspective, but my real concern is with local issues. After all, we are operating in NZ and the local conditions count.

What challenges do you think the industry faces?

One of the biggest challenges we face is the imbalance in the public's minds between the perceived risks of oil and gas exploration and the economic rewards the industry actually provides. I completely understand why certain corners of NZ are uncomfortable with the petroleum industry, and I share the vision and desire for a 100% renewable world. But we live in a world that is completely reliant on oil and gas for thousands of products. That's the reality of the situation. And in NZ we've been safely producing oil and gas for decades. Our industry operates to the highest standards to ensure that record is maintained.

You also have to consider what would happen if the petroleum industry was taken out of NZ. It is the country's fourth largest industry and contributes a huge amount to our economy. If we don't continue to invest in exploration and production, we won't be able to sustain this return, and right now New Zealand has few options to generate large scale income to fund our way of life.

What do you hope to achieve in your stint as PEPANZ CEO?

I'd like to see a greater understanding of the oil and gas industry here in NZ. We have an incredibly well-managed and safe operation and the environmental impact is small. Our members place a huge amount of importance on protecting people, animals and the environment, every single day. It is our place to help maintain that performance, and see if we can improve it.

It is also my goal to help secure continued investment in oil and gas exploration for the next 20 years. It is a key part of securing our energy supply and also delivering revenue that will benefit the country as a whole.

When I'm not at work you can find me...

Outdoors. My family and I love sports and you will always find us out and about. We love this country and I, as much as the next person, am extremely protective of NZ's natural environment. That's why this job is so important to me. I believe in the role the industry plays, but I'm passionate that it plays its part responsibly.

COMMODORE GETS THE DEDICATED GAS TREATMENT

Holden has introduced a dedicated LPG engine option to its Commodore range for the first time allowing consumers the freedom and flexibility of a large car with small car fuel bills.

Holden claims that it set out with three main goals for the LPG Commodore:

- Achieve class-leading CO2 emissions
- Achieve fuel running costs comparable to, or better than, many small petrol cars
- Achieve a seamless drive experience in-line with petrol Commodore models.

All LPG Commodore models score 4.5 out of 5 in the Green Vehicle Guide, with the Omega model emitting just 189g/CO₂ per kilometre and offering a range of over 700 kilometres.

The new LPG models were developed as a low-cost alternative fuel option, which Holden claims is 30 per cent cheaper than petrol. The company largely designed the vapour injection LPG system in-house, including a testing program that spanned more than 1.3 million kilometres.

This new Holden dedicated LPG system replaces the previous dual-fuel petrol-LPG system.



DEADLINE TO COMPLY WITH LPG RULES

A new rule relating to the use and storage of LPG came into effect in March this year, prohibiting the supply of LPG to sites with more than 100kg of LPG that do not hold a Location Test Certificate or comply with an EP-approved code of practice.

Since 2004, LPG users with more than 100kg of LPG on site have been subject to these requirements.

Following a reassessment of LPG in 2010, a new control was added which meant suppliers could only deliver to a site where a valid Location Test Certificate could be provided. This control came into effect on 2 March 2012.

"From March this year, it became illegal for suppliers of LPG to deliver to any site that does not meet the rules," said Dr Simon Buckland, the Environmental Protection Authority's Hazardous Substances Compliance Manager.

Dr Buckland urged anyone with more than 100kg of LPG on site to ensure they complied.

"Non-compliant sites will not only risk a disruption to their supply but may also jeopardise the validity of their building insurance," Dr Buckland said.

Executive Director of the LPG Association Peter Gilbert says that few issues have been reported with the March 2 changeover.

"Both industry and EPA have incurred only a very small number of difficulties with the new rule which is great to see."

A Location Test Certificate is issued by a test certifier who assesses a site for compliance. If a site does not meet the requirements, the test certifier will advise the user about what action they need to take.

The EPA has been working with suppliers, the LPG Association and test certifiers to inform users of their responsibilities and to help them become compliant.

If you use or store more than 100kg of LPG on site and are unsure if you comply with the rules, you can contact our Hazardous Substances helpline on 0800 376 234.

If you need to contact a test certifier to arrange an assessment, a list of approved test certifiers is available on the EPA website, www.epa.govt.nz.

We are always looking for stories from both the natural gas and LPG worlds, as well as the wider gas community. If you have any story ideas for Gasline please email Alex Hema at alex@theprcompany.co.nz.

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