



PETROLEUM AND GAS INSPECTORATE

SAFETY ALERT

No: 25

Date: 02 December 2005

SUBJECT: FLAMMABLE REFRIGERANT ALERT

What Happened:

The Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate has been advised that attempts may be made to sell refined LPG for use in automotive air-conditioning in Queensland.

These refrigerants are normally sold in aerosol type cans and may contain the words "hydrocarbon refrigerant", "propane" or "butane".

Some vehicles from interstate may be fitted with these refrigerants

Key Issues:

- The use of flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants in automotive applications is currently not permitted in Queensland.
- LP gas is a highly flammable product and can lead to fire or explosion when as little as 2% is mixed with air.
- Repairers of air-conditioning systems from other States must take care to ensure their personal safety.

Recommendations:

- Do not use these refrigerants in any vehicles repaired or serviced in Queensland. Note that no new vehicles are fitted with these refrigerants.
- If servicing an interstate vehicle, shut down all sources of ignition in a 3 metre radius around the vehicle. Under no circumstances use a flame unless the system is emptied and purged. Replace with non-flammable refrigerant.
- Report any instances of this product being sold/used to a Petroleum and Gas Inspector.

Contact for Further Information:

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