

Application Summary

Application number:	HRC09001, LPG (CE-reassessment)
Application type:	Notified, Reassessment, CE Modified
Applicant contact:	Haydn Murdoch
Applicant:	ERMA New Zealand PO Box 131 Wellington 6140 New Zealand
Purpose:	CE Initiated Application for the modified reassessment of LPG, Propane and Butane.
Date formally received:	8 October 2009

Application Summary prepared by ERMA New Zealand

This application for the modified reassessment of specific aspects of the approvals for LPG, Propane and Butane has been prepared by the staff of ERMA New Zealand (“the Agency”) on behalf of the Chief Executive of the Environmental Risk Management Authority (“the Authority”) under section 63A of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (“the Act”).

We propose the following amendments to the approvals for LPG, propane and butane:

- a) the addition of a requirement that the substances contain an odorant;
- b) the addition of a requirement that the substances when used in refrigeration systems shall comply with certain clauses in:
 - (i) AS/NZS 1677 Refrigeration Systems; or
 - (ii) a code of practice approved by the Authority under section 79 of the Act that specifies requirements equivalent to the requirements specified in (i);
- c) a lowering of the threshold limits for signage requirements where the substances are stored indoors or in a machinery room where the substances are present in a refrigeration system;
- d) the inclusion of a provision, within the requirements of test certificates for hazardous substance locations where the substances are charged into cylinders, to confirm that the persons charging the cylinders are approved fillers and that they hold a current test certificate to this effect; and
- e) the addition of a requirement that LPG cylinders used in domestic properties should follow the recommendations set out in AS/NZS 1596.

Based on its risk assessment, we consider that the safety benefits of the proposed amendments will outweigh any increase in costs. Many of the suggested proposals are in line with international best practice.

We have also identified an issue regarding leakages of the substances caused by the use of POL connectors with QCC valves in cylinders and as a solution will consider proposing the use of valves which meet the CGA 793 specification, once valves manufactured to that specification become available.

This application is being publicly notified for submissions at the same time as an application for a modified reassessment of the same approvals (for LPG, Propane and Butane) received from the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association of NZ Inc (LPGA) and it is intended that both applications will be considered by the Authority at the same time.