

JUNE/JULY 2011



LP GAS

THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY



FLUELESS REVOLUTION

Energy efficiency is a deciding factor in choosing lp gas fires.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Pumps

Training

Gas Safe Review

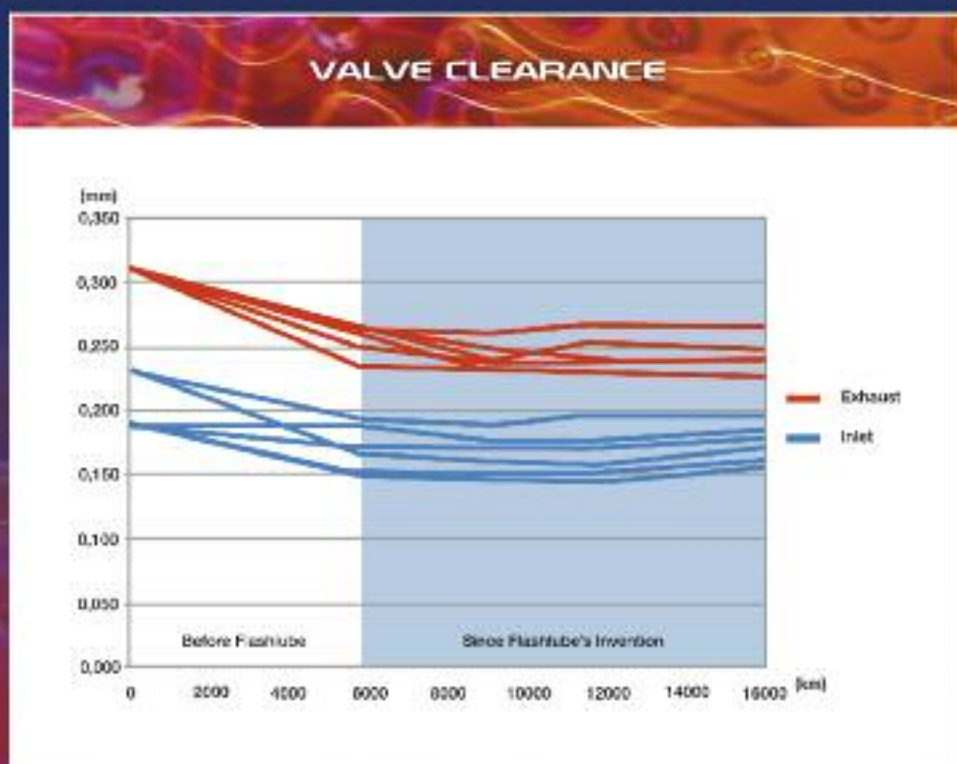
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CONTENTS

JUNE/JULY 2011

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 4 | NEWS |
| 6 | PUMPS |
| 8 | SPACE HEATING |
| 14 | TRAINING |
| 17 | PRODUCTS |
| 22 | SPECIALIST SERVICES |

THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY HAVE YOUR SAY



Faye Spiers
Editor

The Gas Safe Register is currently being reviewed (see page 14), and registered businesses and their employees are invited to have their say from the following options:

CATEGORY 1

For registered engineers wishing to extend work range into another field, e.g. domestic into non-domestic

- No change to existing processes.
- Mandatory training in specialist subject areas as a prerequisite to ACS assessment in a new field.
- Production of a portfolio to prove experience has been gained in the new field unless a qualification, e.g. S/NVQ, has been gained.

CATEGORY 2

- No change to existing processes.
- Mandatory training for matters of gas safety for the work categories in which the applicant wishes to work.
- Production of a portfolio to prove experience has been gained in the applicant's chosen category of work.
- Scheme rules to expand the range of qualifications acceptable for Category 2 applicants in addition to the introduction of mandatory training (as above).

CATEGORY 3

- No change to existing processes.
- Ensure that new entrants have been assessed as competent in all relevant aspects through an appropriate vocational qualification, e.g. QCF, MLPs - recognised industry apprenticeships would be acceptable but an ACS assessment alone would not.
- Standardise MLPs and portfolios in terms of their duration and content. All training providers would have to produce their MLP/portfolio schemes to a nationally agreed standard endorsed by the SSB. The applicant would have to provide evidence that their MLP and portfolio meets with the required standard, and the certification body would have to warrant that they have investigated the validity of any claims made.
- Standardise MLPs and portfolios in terms of their duration and content, then as with c) above, except all training providers would have to attain certification of their MLP schemes to a third party. The applicant would have to provide evidence that their portfolio or evidence and experience meet with the required standard.
- Division of Category 3 to cater for applicants with transferable skills and relevant experience as opposed to applicants with no transferable skills or relevant experience. Option e) to be chosen in conjunction with either Option c) or d) – state which.

Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/downstreamgas and complete the survey by August 31 2011.

LP GAS

THE VOICE OF THE UK LPG INDUSTRY

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FRONT COVER PICTURE FLUELESS REVOLUTION

See page 8



Clesse Moves to New Premises

Clesse UK has moved to new premises in Pershore, Worcestershire.

Managing director Kaz Dziemarski said the site will provide Clesse with additional space for centralised stock holding and new product ranges, and allow for an extension to its assembly and testing areas.

He said: "Our new 10,500ft² headquarters will allow us to expand our assembly, fabrication and testing to transform standard generic regulation into specialist equipment. Covering a range from 1 to 1,200kgh from stock, our aim is to provide our customers in the UK, Ireland and, more recently, Polish markets, with end-to-end solutions in lp gas transmission.

"Our latest products include large capacity pressure reduction stations supplying industrial and housing developments, which are high



Kaz Dziemarski (left) and Vincent Grangier.

integrity systems preassembled with or without metering to meet the requirements of businesses in monitoring carbon dioxide emissions."

In April, the new premises were visited by Vincent Grangier, who was recently appointed managing director of Clesse Industries. Vincent joined Clesse from Metalis Group, part of Clesse's parent company Aalbert Industries.

He said: "I was interested to

visit the UK at the earliest opportunity when taking responsibility in April. Over the last few years, the UK subsidiary, led by Kaz and his team, have expanded the operation beyond the domestic markets into tank and industrial sized regulation, setting excellent standards in customer service and product quality."

The new site also offers a conference and training room. Kaz and technical regulators sales manager Richard Smith are developing training workshops in installation and use of the Clesse range for support engineers and OEMs.

Kaz said: "Having worked in teaching for a couple of years, I knew there was a need for something to go beyond normal accredited assessments. Both Richard and I hope to be able to pass on some of our expertise and enthusiasm to a new generation entering the lp gas business."

**Contact Clesse UK Ltd on 01905 842020
www.clesse.co.uk**



Clesse's new 10,500ft² headquarters in Worcestershire.

HSE Reporting Now Online

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has announced that, from September 12 2011, all reportable work related injuries and incidents under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) will move to a predominantly online system.

Seven forms will be available on HSE's website for reporting incidents. Businesses will still be able to notify fatal and major incidents and injuries by telephone.

Trevor Carlile, HSE's director of strategy, said: "More than half of reportable injuries are already notified to HSE through the website and this proportion has been increasing steadily over the past seven years. Taking advantage of the growing use of the internet allows HSE to be more efficient in the way it works. We do recognise, however, that people reporting a traumatic event still need that personal interaction, so the notification of fatal and major incidents and injuries will still take place by phone."

The HSE's Infoline telephone service will end on September 30. The HSE's website currently receives 26 million visits every year, and is already the most popular option for accessing health and safety information, with 100 times more visitors than Infoline has callers.

The website features information on the most frequent health and safety enquiries, such as RIDDOR reporting, first aid and the health and safety responsibilities of new businesses. Health and safety advice is also available via the Government's websites for businesses www.businesslink.gov.uk and www.direct.gov.uk, and more information can be found at www.hse.gov.uk.

Calor Launches Switching Incentive

Calor Gas Ltd has launched an initiative for homeowners currently using oil, solid fuel or electric heating to switch to lpg following news of a £10,000 incentive for energy efficient home improvements under the government's Green Deal. The £500 credit from Calor can be claimed either on a household's first lpg fill up or off a boiler installation through Calor's

installation team CalorForce.

During the second reading of the Energy Bill in May, energy secretary Chris Huhne said households, landlords and businesses making energy efficiency improvements on their properties would be able to access upfront capital of up to £10,000. The Green Deal will come into effect in 2012 and will fund energy

efficiency measures, including heating, insulation and lighting, to Britain's homes and businesses. The Government expects that 14 million of the UK's 27 million homes will benefit and predicts it will create 100,000 jobs by 2015.

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PUMPING COMBINATION

By Shaun Hampson, managing director,
Sterling Fluid Systems (UK) Ltd

Harmonisation of European law has resulted in some changes to lpg pump specifications with regards to their design and safe use, and the risk of environmental leakage.



Back to back mechanical seal.

European safety directives now refer to the risk of explosion emanating from not only the electrical elements of an installation, but also mechanical equipment, such as pumps, fans and compressors.

This modified legal position requires manufacturers to make greater efforts to ensure safety. Additionally, new international ambient air quality regulations (European Directive 96/62/EC) have been released to protect the environment against seal leakage.

Where liquefied hydrocarbon gases, including lpg, are concerned, the pump manufacturer is faced with a combination of directives that surround explosive, pungent and sometimes toxic media. Arguably, the safest position is to develop a standard pump family that encompasses all safety requirements.

Consequently, today's generation of liquefied gas pumps are significantly different from yesterday's ancestors. Priming ability, seal technology, design orientation, materials and internal clearances are examples of evolutionary development.

LIQUEFIED HYDROCARBON GASES

Not only do liquefied gases vary in terms of their industrial and domestic uses, but also the way in which they are produced. Liquefied gases, as defined by DIN51622, include media, such as propane, butane and their derivatives. However, liquefied gases also include others, such as carbon dioxide, ammonia and other refrigerant-based components.

There are various



Magnetic coupled side channel pump.

technologies that have been adopted for pumping liquefied gases. Generally, these include side channel pumps, centrifugal pumps and sliding vane positive displacement pumps. Although each of them has the ability to cope with the demanding nature of such boiling media, they differ in their ability to cope with the demanding nature of the product, application and site.

SIDE CHANNEL

Side channel pumps offer very effective gas/vapour/liquid pumping, with an exceptionally good NPSH(r). They are highly robust and have the ability to give decades of trouble free service.

They are also blessed with a very straight performance curve, which lends itself to pumping liquefied gases, and are readily available in seal-less, magnetically coupled designs with which to remove the inherent mechanical seal issues. They can also run dry for periods of time.

So why are side channel pumps not the ideal choice? Because they are limited by relatively low flow rate and efficiency.

CENTRIFUGAL

Centrifugal pumps address the issue of minimal flow rate and offer some high-end efficiency.

Seal-less designs are also available, which again removes the inherent leakage risks. Often, this technology represents an adaptation of a standard liquid pump, and is consequently limited by its design.

Centrifugal pumps generally offer very 'normal' levels of NPSH requirement but, critically, are susceptible to the problems associated with entrained gas and/or vapour, such as reduced performance and even vapour locking. NPSH limitations are sometimes overcome by the employment of long vertical designs, which are excavated into the ground in order to give additional liquid head at the point of suction entry.

Concerns arise with vertically oriented centrifugal construction, as entrained/released vapour/gas naturally finds its way up through the liquid to the highest point – which is often the seal chamber. As the seal area can fill with vapour, the (product) lubrication and cooling of the mechanical seal can be detrimentally affected. Again, this can be overcome with pressurised back-to-back double seals, but this is at the expense of a maintained system.

SLIDING VANE

Positive displacement sliding vane machines benefits from self-compensating wear adjustment, which permits peak performance to be maintained over the life of the vane. The sliding vane pump is well matched to very thin volatile liquids, and their construction materials allow them to be manufactured in accordance with ATEX requirements. They too have a

steep performance curve, which permits small quantities of liquefied gas to be pumped at relatively high pressure.

Principally, sliding vane technology can be susceptible to cavitation because of its significant demand for process NPSH. Consequently, lifespan can sometimes be quite limited if the NPSH is compromised for even short periods of time.

Additionally, its adoption is compromised in domestic areas because of its noisy operation. Autogas-centric choices can often be driven by such a noise limitation, as fuel filling stations are often in the close vicinity of domestic housing.

COMBINATION

Finally, there is one choice that combines the benefits of the aforementioned technologies, while relieving the user from their weaknesses. For obvious reasons, this machine has been termed the 'combination' pump.

Taking all of the side-channel benefits and integrating them with those of a multi-stage centrifugal pump results in high flow; high pressure; arguably unbeatable NPSH at varying duty points; limited tolerance to dry running; robustness, where decades of trouble free operation are the norm rather than exception, and sealless with magnetic coupling. Equally, these units are available with double back-to-back (pressurised seal system), or tandem (unpressurised seal system) seals with leak detection facilities.

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FLUELESS REVOLUTION

By Paul Ravnbo-West, director of marketing & design, Focal Point Fires

With the ever-rising costs of fuel prices, energy efficiency is becoming one of the main deciding factors when customers are replacing their lp gas fires.



Pinior.

Many gas fires only have the ability to deliver between 50 and 60 per cent efficiency or, putting it more plainly, if a gas fire costs 24p per hour to run then, at best case, 14p comes into the room and 10p goes up the chimney!

Focal Point Fires, the Dorset based manufacturer of gas and electric fires, recognised this some time ago and has been working hard to ensure that its entire range of flueless gas fires is available on lp gas.

If you stopped 10 people in the High Street and asked if they knew what a Dyson was, all 10 would probably say yes. Then ask the same people if they know about flueless fires, and you may get one yes.

The flueless fire, and the technology surrounding this style of appliance, is still relatively unheard of by the general public. Yet the simple

fact about these fires is the uncompromising energy efficiency that can be attained, combined with the simplest installation the Gas Safe Registered fitter will undertake.

Flueless lp gas fires are 100 per cent efficient due to the fact that no heat is lost up the chimney or flue. This means that they need less lp gas input and therefore have lower running costs.

A typical home has a 30m3 living room and, based on this, a flueless lp gas fire would save almost 60 per cent on fuel costs. In addition, flueless lp gas fires are kinder to the environment. If 15 million UK householders replaced their conventional gas fire with a flueless gas fire, it would reduce the output of carbon dioxide by over 7.5 million metric tonnes, which is the equivalent of taking 1.5 million cars off the road.



Blenheim.

Flueless fires are available in three formats, and are suitable for minimum room sizes of 23m3, 30m3 or 40m3. With each change in room size, there is a rise in the heat output of the individual fire to 2kW, 2.6kW or 3.5kW respectively, meaning that they can cater for all types of customers with all types of requirements.

So, how does a flueless fire work exactly? Well, the simple answer is that all flueless fires have a piece of heat resistant glass that keeps the products of combustion from entering the room.

The products of combustion are then forced through the catalytic convertor at the top of the fire, which then scrubs the carbon monoxide and turns it into harmless carbon dioxide, using precious materials, such as platinum and palladium. Due to the nature and design of the product, the catalytic convertor does not have the same lifespan as those used in a car but, during independent tests, it was found that the catalytic convertor worked without issue for the equivalent of over 27 years.

As you can see, these products are a true innovation and, combined with the ease of installation, use and maintenance, and the low running costs, why wouldn't you swap?

All of Focal Point's flueless lp gas fires can be viewed on our websites at www.focalpointfires.co.uk or www.ekofires.co.uk, where a choice of contemporary wall mounted and more traditional brass inset flueless gas fires can be found.

These fires truly do add a stunning focalpoint to any home and, at the same time, save money while not costing the planet.

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CREATING A WARM WELCOME

By Ian Kingscott, technical director, Gazco

Gazco has put a huge amount of research and development into its lpg fires and is able to offer the same features, efficiencies and heat outputs as its natural gas products.



Gazco Studio 3.



Gas Riva Vision.

Gazco has been a market leader in the heating industry for over 30 years and is dedicated to providing a high quality range of stoves, fireplaces and associated accessories. Its commitment to ongoing product development and reputation for superior craftsmanship, designer-led aesthetics and technical innovation has established it as one of the most successful and respected manufacturers in Europe.

Today, Gazco has the widest range of gas fires and stoves in the UK, which includes a vast range of shapes, styles and sizes from traditional to contemporary, built in or freestanding, and everything in between.

Most Gazco fires and stoves are available for lpg as well as natural gas. Gazco invests a great deal of time and money on research and development in order to make sure the lpg versions of its appliances burn with the same high efficiencies as its natural gas appliances, and burn as cleanly as possible.

For example, the glass fronted Gazco E-Box is available with

efficiencies of up to 86 per cent with lpg when fitted with a balanced flue. It offers a contemporary feel, with either highly realistic coals or pebble fuel effects, and will fit into standard 410 x 560 x 250mm fireplace openings. At 3.8kW heat output, Gazco E Box needs no additional room ventilation and the combination of its virtually invisible glass front, heat reflective lining and radiant heating convection system delivers the most heat to room.

A range of freestanding gas stoves are also available as lpg and offer everything from the traditional cast iron looks of the Stockton to the ultra contemporary Gas Riva Vision and everything in between.

However, for those who are looking for something more traditional, Gazco's Classic Fireplaces are also available for lpg. From the gracefulness of the early 1800s to the exuberance of Art Nouveau, these cast iron fireplaces add warmth and elegance to any room or living space.

The very latest convector

fireplaces offer heating that is twice as efficient as an open fire, and a range of flue options mean that a chimney is not always required. This offers the retailer and installer the option to either take on a job restoring a period house to its former glory, or to create an authentic look for a modern home.

As with all of Gazco's natural gas appliances, the lpg versions have also been designed with the installer in mind and are quick and easy to install. Self-contained fireboxes are a joy to work with, as many of them have been designed specifically for standard openings.

A vast array of fronts, frets, frames and surrounds are also available, which gives a wide range of aesthetic options for homeowners wanting to 'get the look', and gives the heating retailer scope for quoting on a wider range of property styles and types.

Gazco's lpg products also have the same remote controls as are available with their natural gas products, and give homeowners the same controllability of everything from ignition to flame height from the

comfort of their armchairs. For glass fronted Gazco Studio fires, the Programmable Sequential Remote offers a timer and thermostatic controls, which ensure a warm welcome home on a cold evening.

In addition, flat touch panels are available with our Studio models, which can be wall mounted up to 2,500mm away from the appliance, allowing control over ignition, extinguish and flame height should the remote control be lost.

As Gazco has put a huge amount of research and development into its lpg fires, it is able to offer the same features, efficiencies and heat outputs as are available for its natural gas products, making Gazco unique amongst heating manufacturers. This is great news for heating retailers, installers and homeowners alike, as Gazco now has the UK's widest range of lpg fires. This means that there is a Gazco lpg fire suitable to create a warm welcome in just about any style or size of property.

**Contact Gazco on
01392 261 999
www.gazco.com**



Studio fires remotes offer a timer and thermostatic controls.

CHIMNEY NOT REQUIRED

By Steve Barson, managing director, Burley Fires

Have you ever considered how much heat disappears up the chimney?



Image.



Ambience.

With an open flued gas fire or a solid fuel fire, more heat is lost up the chimney than actually goes into the room.

Fuel prices have increased dramatically over the past few years and these increases are predicted to continue. By wasting energy into the environment, gas fires are adding to global warming, and customers are paying unnecessarily high fuel bills.

Consider instead a flueless lp gas fire. No chimney or flue is required, so all the heat generated goes to warming the room.

Flueless gas fires have a long history in the United States, Australia and Japan, where there are around 40 million. They were introduced to the UK relatively recently by Burley, and are now available at most reputable fireplace stockists.

Burley's flueless lp gas fires and stoves are designed to burn extremely cleanly without a flue. Burnt gases are then passed through a catalytic converter. The only requirements are a supply of lpg, an air vent and a

minimum room size. No chimney, flue, fireplace or electricity supply is needed.

Flueless lp gas fires are not designed to be the sole source of heat in a room, they are supplementary to central heating. Insufficient ventilation or background heat can sometimes cause condensation to form on colder surfaces.

A chimney or flue drags a huge amount of air out of the house – warm air that has already been heated by central heating, which is then replaced by cold air from outside, leaking in through the gaps around windows and doors. A flueless fire works in the opposite way. A vent supplies air into the room that is being heated, and the heated air dissipates away from the fire and circulates around the house.

The air vent does not create a cold draught. The tiny amount of air that the vent does draw is a fraction of the cold air that a chimney or flue drags into a house and will be compensated for many times over by the extra

heat provided. The vent is primarily to maintain the correct level of oxygen in the room and is required under Part J of the Building Regulations.

Burley flueless lp gas fires provide an exceptional level of safety because they have been designed to burn extremely cleanly and do not have to rely on a chimney to remove the combusted gases.

Chimneys and flues are fraught with potential problems, all of which will stop a flued fire from operating safely. The fabric of the chimney could collapse, a nest or debris can block the flue, and atmospheric conditions or open doors can create a down draught.

Extractor fans can create a draught to reverse the pull of a chimney, causing it to spill the products of combustion into the room. This makes flueless lp gas fires particularly popular and safe for use in pubs and restaurants.

Every Burley flueless lp gas fire is bench tested for at least 30 minutes before leaving the

factory. Once installed, an oxygen depletion sensor within the fire constantly monitors oxygen levels in the room. If this should fall by as little as 1.5 per cent, the flame is automatically extinguished.

A flueless lp gas fire can literally be fitted in minutes. It is a simple and problem free operation provided the Gas Safe Registered fitter follows the installation instructions. If it is to be fitted into an open chimney, the flue must be blocked and one of Burley's cavity boxes fitted. Apart from that, the fire just needs connecting and testing, and the air vent fitting.

Bear in mind that building a chimney on a house would cost at least £1,000. Restoring a damaged chimney would probably cost a lot more.

Installation instructions should be read before undertaking any structural preparation work. As with all lp gas appliances, fires must be serviced annually.

Contact Burley Fires on 01572 756956
www.burley.co.uk



Environ.

BALANCING TRADITION WITH PRACTICALITY

By Tristan Johnston, product development engineer, Broseley Fires Ltd

When it comes to domestic stoves, Broseley Fires is combining reliable lpg technology with 21st century design and traditional, individual craftsmanship.



Winchester.

The modern home demands a good-looking, highly functional heat source that combines contemporary design and solid construction with the very latest technology and maximum efficiency. Broseley's lpg stoves fit the bill perfectly and offer users convenience coupled with cleanliness and minimum maintenance.

But, as well as supplying top quality stoves, Broseley brings added value to installations through our unrivalled and invaluable 30 years' experience – nobody has the knowledge of gas burners that we have and that means specifiers and end-users can trust us to deliver on the very latest technology as well as on quality and value for money.

COMMANDING POSITION

Broseley began 25 years ago to design gas burners for the largest and best-known cooker and stove manufacturers in the UK. However, 10 years ago, the company decided to use this experience to make its own gas appliances. The company's vast knowledge and experience as a manufacturer and designer of burners and stoves specifically intended for lpg use are what puts it in such a commanding position in the market.

The burners and all working parts of Broseley's lpg stoves are made in the UK. Some manufacturers prefer to fit off-the-shelf burners into their stoves, but Broseley insists on

using purpose-built parts that its own engineers have developed. The burners are designed for ease of use and reliability and need very little maintenance.

Using traditional castings, Broseley makes complete heating appliances that are tested and approved to the highest European standards. The company has invested heavily in establishing a research and development laboratory where its engineers test appliances using the latest analysers, calibrated fuels and instrumentation to ensure each and every product earns its CE mark.

By building strong relationships with specifiers, suppliers and end-users, Broseley has learnt that customers want to balance the aesthetics of their chosen appliance with practicality. So the company has created a range of stoves not only designed to suit the style of



Canterbury.

modern homes, but also to stand the test of time.

To this end, Broseley uses time-honoured materials, such as cast iron, to craft its stoves. This is because cast iron has been proven over centuries to have excellent heat conducting and radiating properties. While some companies in this sector don't offer full cast iron stove bodies, using a standard steel build instead, Broseley believes in giving customers more for their money by building the very best quality into every stove.

TRADITIONAL FEEL

Complementing this traditional feel are various innovative and energy saving features in Broseley's stoves, including thermostatically controlled real fire and flame effects, remote controls and easy cleaning and maintenance.

There are a number of Broseley lpg stoves that offer high efficiency with a choice of fuel effects, and what many consider to be the most realistic flame effects in this type of unit. The most popular in the company's range are the Canterbury Gas and Winchester Gas models. Others include the York Midi and the Lincoln Slim Line.

While the Canterbury is manually operated, the Winchester and York Midi feature a thermostatic remote control as standard. The remote allows the temperature of a room to be regulated

automatically via a thermostat sensor in the handset. All models are among the most efficient products of their kind, offering 80 per cent efficiency with heat output that is ideal for the average living room.

Capable of fitting into any standard size British hearth, the Canterbury is an efficient, effective, medium output stove at an affordable price. With a heat output of 2.8kW, the stove weighs 65kg and is available in metallic black, blue or green.

FEATURES

Features include a choice of door designs and furniture and an oxygen depletion pilot system, which automatically shuts the appliance off if any potentially dangerous fumes are detected. Like all the stoves in the range, the Canterbury does not require any additional ventilation.

A clean and effective lpg stove, the Winchester offers a heat output of 5.5kw, weighs 76kg and is available in traditional metallic black. Like the Canterbury, it offers a choice of door designs and furniture and an oxygen depletion pilot system.

Combining elegance and sophistication with reliability, the Winchester features unique triple aspect viewing windows so that the beauty and warmth of the fire can be seen and felt from all parts of a room.

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REVIEWING GAS COMPETENCY

By Ian Moss, manager – Gas Safe Register, Energy & Utility Skills Ltd

Gas Safe Registered engineers can decide whether the current processes for new applicants entering the industry, and for engineers who wish to change their scope of work, need to change.

During the past twelve months, over 6,400 new applicants have joined the Gas Safe Register and now operate as engineers in the downstream gas industry. So, how do new applicants obtain the necessary qualifications, experience and competence to obtain registration with Gas Safe Register?

The current routes for new applicants are either to gain an S/NVQ* or to prove existing experience and competence through a Managed Learning Programme (MLP) and then undergo assessment through ACS. Applicants with no previous industry experience can use the ACS route in conjunction with an MLP.

REGISTRATION

For the S/NVQ route, the applicant is assessed on 'whole job competence', which includes quality of work, customer service, system design, etc, whereas, for the ACS route, the applicant would be assessed on 'matters of gas safety' only.

This difference may lead to significant variation in time and cost to achieve Gas Safe Registration. The Gas Safe Register requires engineers to prove their competence in only 'matters of gas safety' to obtain registration.

While anyone may enrol on an NVQ/SVQ/QCF qualification, there are currently three categories of people seeking to undertake ACS assessments – applicants regarded as experienced gas fitting operatives; applicants holding a

nationally recognised qualification, e.g. S/NVQ or City & Guilds craft certificate, in a trade associated with gas work, e.g. plumbing, and applicants new to the industry that do not hold any national qualifications and have no previous experience.

CATEGORY 1

People with an S/NVQ or ACS qualification are classified as Category 1 applicants when they sit their first ACS assessment and can reasonably sit other, perhaps more complex or skilled, assessments to extend their range of work.

There is no limit to ACS assessments once Gas Safe Registration has been achieved. The applicant can undertake mandatory training in the new discipline, and/or present a portfolio of experience to the assessment centre prior to assessment. A large number of applicants wishing to cross skill also undertake training, and the robustness of the ACS assessment will determine if the applicant is competent in these new areas.

CATEGORY 2

Category 2 applicants should have 'whole job competence', such as quality of work, customer service, system design, etc. The specific 'matters of gas safety' can be gained through an appropriate MLP and subsequent ACS assessment, but it's worth noting that 'mandatory' training could have a significant cost to industry.

Alternatively, applicants could

complete an MLP but provide a detailed portfolio of work experience. Gaining experience may prove difficult for engineers, as providers may be reluctant to 'train' potential commercial rivals.

The targets of on the job experience have to be clearly defined and the entry requirements ensure every applicant achieves the minimum expectation. Consideration should also be given to how to assess competence of engineers who don't work in mainstream gas utilisation but operate within specialist areas, e.g. gas engines, turbines and compressors. These operatives are often qualified within their own field but would require only a limited scope assessment to prove their competence.

CATEGORY 3

The requirements for Gas Safe Register registration need to be consistent for all applicants, and the route to registration needs to be the correct one. For new entrants to the industry, the full range of competence may have to be demonstrated, and the appropriate route would then be an agreed vocational qualification, currently S/NVQ level 2.

Alternatively, the current route for Category 3 applicants may be sufficient, i.e. an MLP followed by ACS assessment. This would differ from a vocational qualification in that the applicant may enter the industry having been assessed only on matters of gas safety.

The dilemma this would raise is which assessment framework

is suitable for new entrants, i.e. S/NVQ* or ACS? Training would not be a key issue, so an MLP may be appropriate.

Alternatively, following an MLP, Category 3 applicants could be divided into two sub-categories – those with no or few transferable skills or relevant experience, and those with transferable skills or relevant experience, e.g. an experienced but unqualified plumber or heating engineer. Applicants/ employers would need to decide whether a QCF type qualification would be more appropriate in the latter instance as 'whole job competence' would be achieved.

EVIDENCE

Application conditions need to ensure that new entrants provide evidence of relevant experience of real life scenarios and that the requirements are consistently interpreted and applied by assessment centres. Therefore, proven 'gas safety competence' has to include on the job experience in a consistent manner. Furthermore, MLPs need to be consistent in their delivery, in particular the duration of ACS assessments.

Gas Safe Registered engineers can have their say at www.surveymonkey.com/s/downstreamgas until August 31.

Contact Energy & Utility Skills Ltd on 08450 779922
www.euskills.co.uk

*S/NVQ is being replaced by the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) for England and Wales, and the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) for Scotland.

CONTINENTAL TRAINING

By Ian Oultram, managing director, UK Energy Training

Training means keeping up to date with regulations, standards and new technology to stay ahead of the competition.



Jean-Philippe Monin (left) presents the prize for best SIBLU engineer to Mathieu Couteret.

Businesses need skilled staff that are confident, know the job and understand the business' priorities. That means they need quality training.

Everyone needs to improve their skills – whether it's a young person just starting out or an old hand with many years' experience. The average worker in the lp gas industry is 55 years old, and this figure is creeping up all the time. The recruitment of young employees is essential to lead lp gas businesses into the future.

Taking full advantage of quality training takes commitment from the training company and the client. Research shows training plays a key role in increased job satisfaction, and two-thirds of employees said they worked harder as a result of learning new skills.

PRODUCTIVITY

In the UK, only 28 per cent of the population have intermediate skills, compared with 51 per cent in France and 65 per cent in Germany, and this has a direct impact on productivity. French and German workers produce between a quarter and a third more in every hour than their British counterparts.

In 2005, UK Energy Training was contacted by SIBLU Holidays, an international company operating leisure parks across France. It required a flexible training programme for lp gas operatives carrying out

annual safety checks in thousands of holiday park homes each year across Europe.

The training brief we received included requirements for compliance with local regulations in several European countries. There was a need to include UK legislation where local regulations were lacking or unclear, and to integrate with in-house health and safety policies.

The situation was further compounded by a need to deliver the training and subsequent assessments in English and French. Working closely with SIBLU Holidays, we were able to translate our entire programme, including training materials, manuals and assessments, from English into French.

COLLABORATION

The collaboration was a success, and we have delivered the highly regarded training programme onsite in France and the UK, in both French and English, every year since 2006. Interestingly, the course has proved more popular with French female lp gas operatives than a similar one would in the UK.

The requirements for the safe use of lp gas in Northern European countries are similar to those in the UK. The main differences from a training point of view are dealing with equipment not usually seen in the UK and some rather unusual pressure systems utilised in holiday homes on the continent.

Continental holiday home manufacturers, such as French owned IRM (now the largest mobile home manufacturer in Europe), have for many years used a three-stage pressure reduction system. This system is used extensively for holiday home cylinder fed installations.

It comprises a first stage regulator, reducing the pressure from a cylinder to around 1.2 bar. Lpg at this pressure is then run to the interior of the holiday home, usually in 12mm diameter copper pipework, and all joints are brazed wherever possible with nut and washer seals elsewhere. Immediately before each appliance, a second stage device is fitted to further reduce the pressure to a useable 37mbar.

COMPACT

The device incorporates three functions in one compact unit – second stage pressure reduction, under pressure shut off (UPS) and appliance isolation valve. A consequence of this design is that pipe sizing to appliances is never a problem, with pressures around 1bar available within 300mm of each appliance.

Bulk lp gas supplies are often handled somewhat differently than we would find on holiday parks in the UK. Holiday homes fed from bulk supplies with a metered estate style system are somewhat less fortunate

pressure-wise than their cylinder fed counterparts.

In these installations, a first stage regulator is fitted at the vessel, reducing the pressure to an intermediate level of around 1 bar. Pipework then runs out to the various groups of holiday homes and into a cabinet arrangement.

An emergency stop button is fitted, primarily for use by members of the public, and a second stage regulator reduces the pipework pressure to around 37mbar. A 15mm diameter soft copper pipe is run out individually to each home, which may be in excess of 20m away.

LOWER PRESSURES

At the holiday home base, an emergency control valve (ECV) is fitted and a further run of 15mm copper tube is used to connect each unit. Due to some excessively long pipework runs, this type of system may deliver lower than required pressures.

The main saving grace is that holiday homes on the continent are not generally fitted with heating appliances, and subsequently require far less lp gas than those used within the colder climes of the UK. The only lp gas appliances are generally an lp gas hob and instantaneous water heater.

If only we had summers like that!

Contact UK Energy Training on 08456 442039 www.ukenergytraining.co.uk

Logic Certification Issues 100,000th Certificate

Logic Certification, which designs and certifies courses for the building services industry, has issued its 100,000th certificate. The certificate was achieved by Robert Worthington-Harris, who undertook the changeover from natural to lp gas training course at Midlands Gas Assessment in Birmingham.

Mark Krull from Logic Certification said: "The issuing of our 100,000th certificate marks a significant milestone for Logic Certification, which has been raising standards in training since 2004, cementing its place as a provider of qualifications and certificates of competence within the building services industry."

Robert Worthington-Harris' company ST10 Gas is based near Alton Towers. He considered adding lp gas to his skill-set a sensible choice, as there are many caravan sites in his area. He said: "I am delighted to be Logic Certification's



L-R: Jonathan Carney, Midlands Gas Assessment Centre; Robert Worthington-Harris, and Mark Krull, Logic Certification.

100,000th candidate and am very impressed with Midlands Gas Assessment, having used the centre to help me up-skill following a career in the RAF. The centre is professionally run and offers training of the highest standards, testament to the strict criteria Logic Certification's approved training locations have to meet."

Jonathan Carney from

Midlands Gas Assessment said: "We've been a Logic Certification assessment centre since 2005, choosing the certification body due to the professional and friendly service they offer, with training course content meeting all the requirements of our candidates."

Contact Logic Certification on 020 8839 2439 www.logiccertification.com

Meeting Training Demand

Following 20 years with a major British lpg equipment manufacturer, Jeff Doidge started Industry Safety Training in the northeast of England to continue providing technical and safety training for lpg equipment and cylinders. The company provides training to national and international companies, local SMEs and local authorities and individual clients across the UK.

Jeff said: "Manual handling, nationally accredited health and safety courses, first aid, fire safety and even food safety for people providing barbecues and buffets are just some of the other courses that we now offer.

"Working closely with a company that is part of a major industrial gases supplier, we've developed new programmes, which include safe moving and handling of cylinders, safe use of single cylinders and regulators, and safe procedures for changing cylinders on manifolded gas systems. The programmes are being rolled out to colleges, laboratories, universities and industry.

"These 'learner inclusive' courses are delivered in a non-fussy and fun way – for what is a very dry list of subjects! – and we're more than happy to provide client evaluations from previous courses."

Contact Industry Safety Training on 07854 843630 www.industrysafetytraining.co.uk

SWPT Expands Offering

Somerset based South West Peninsular Training has recently moved to new premises and expanded its offering to include energy efficient and environmentally friendly products.

Bob Clark at South West Peninsular Training said: "Since moving into our new premises, we are able to offer BPEC domestic solar

hot water heating, installation of aboveground sanitary pipework, and ground and air source heat pumps training.

"Even though we are expanding to renewable energy courses, we are still continuing to offer the complete range of domestic, commercial and lpg courses, including a wide range of

specific ACOP courses. Our courses are designed to suit our clients' needs and are run all year round."

Contact South West Peninsular Training on 01458 253493 www.swptraining.co.uk



SWPT training room.

LOGIC CERTIFICATION
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Logic Certification issues 100,000th certificate!

Logic Certification, which designs and certifies courses for the building services industry, has issued its 100,000th certificate. This was achieved by Robert Worthington-Harris, who undertook the changeover from natural to LP Gas training course at Logic Certification approved centre, Midlands Gas Assessment in Birmingham.

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For more information, visit, www.logiccertification.co.uk



Space-Ray has introduced five new Super High Efficiency Radiant Tube Heater models.

Space-Ray Launches New Radiant Heaters

Space-Ray has introduced a new line of ECA approved lp gas-fired radiant linear and U-tube heaters with capacities from 23 to 47kW for a variety of industrial and commercial uses. The five new CE-approved ADL series tube heaters are available with a linear design, and five new ADU series heaters come in a U-tube design.

The heaters are manufactured under Space-Ray's ISO9001:2008 Quality Assurance Management System, and qualify for the Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) scheme managed by the Carbon Trust.

The heaters' double skin aluminium reflectors are designed to maximise downward radiant output and totally cover the emitter tubes for

more uniform heat distribution at floor level. Other features include a monitoring system for online diagnosis, a step opening redundant combustion gas valve, and direct spark ignition with shut off safety control valve.

In contaminated atmospheres or high humidity areas, optional outside air for combustion can be supplied with a standard 101.6mm round air inlet connection.

Damien Oakley at Space-Ray said: "With the new ADL and ADU series heaters, Space Ray offers among the broadest and most complete line in the industry that fit most industrial and commercial applications. Unlike blown air systems that work from the top down, radiant heat works from the bottom up, warming people, floors and

machines first for optimum comfort.

The heaters incorporate many features not found on most competitive units, including calorised aluminised steel combustion chambers for increased radiant efficiency, greater safety and a more uniform tube operating temperature. The emitter tube surface is also heat treated to be flake free, which provides a cleaner work environment."

Space-Ray also offers industrial tube heaters, including other linear and U-tube designs and double linear and herringbone systems, and industrial plaque heaters.

Contact Space-Ray on 01473 830551 www.spaceray.co.uk

BES Expands Offering



Mark Pearson.

Mail order and online plumbing and gas products distributor BES Ltd has added a range of more than 20 gas combi boilers from Worcester, Vaillant, Ideal and Baxi, and a range of water cylinders, to its offering.

Mark Pearson, product and marketing manager at BES, said: "Initial response has been immensely positive, and it's clear that installers are warm to the idea of being able to order the whole package they need from one source, safe in the knowledge that it will all be delivered the following day.

"For those who know and love BES, the offering through our catalogue and promotions leaflets will remain very much the same – a wide and growing range of products relevant to those working in the lp gas arena, still as easy to order and enjoying the same next day delivery, with the excellent pricing they have become used to over the years. But we feel sure they and a raft of new potential customers will find the new range of products that have joined us – particularly in the heating area – very difficult to ignore."

Contact BES Ltd on 0800 801090 www.bes.co.uk

Baxi Boilers Recognise Lpg

Baxi has introduced a new boiler range consisting of three combi boilers, a heat only and a system boiler. New versions of Baxi's Duo-tec and Platinum combis are joined by its new compact combi boiler Neta-tec and the new Megaflo system boiler.

Baxi CEO Mark Kelly said: "The range has smart new aesthetics that will complement any situation, and user friendly, intelligent controls. But the real difference lies in the state of the art Think technology at the heart of each boiler.

"We have developed a combustion management system that includes gas



Baxi Duo-tec combi boiler.

adaptive control, which means the boiler will self-adjust to provide a lifetime of optimum efficiency. This starts delivering benefits as soon as the boiler is installed.

"The boilers also self-commission. As part of this process, they automatically recognise the quality of gas and determine whether to set up for natural gas or lpg. In fact, the whole range is suitable for lpg, meaning the merchant only has to stock one boiler rather than dedicated lpg models."

Contact Baxi on 08448 711525 www.baxi.co.uk



4th Annual UKLPG Conference Cardiff

Introduction and welcome

As the new girl I have been given the honour, dubious or otherwise, of writing the welcome for this edition of UKLPG news pages. So what to say, I guess I should start by admitting that prior to joining UKLPG my experience of all things LPG was confined to finding 4 huge gas cylinders (turns out they are 47's, see I'm learning the lingo) in the garage of my new house.

Now having spoken to Lisa, I'm told that going on to talk about cylinders collection can be controversial (although I hear a solution is on the way) and with millions of cylinders in circulation it is rightly or wrongly one of the industry's best assets – I know this because when I announced I had a new job and friends and family asked for whom would I be working the comments were, 'oh I know the BBO gas people', although one particularly caravanning keen uncle had had his Range Rover converted to run on LPG, 'much cheaper especially when towing' I was told. You will be pleased to know however that following my attendance at the annual conference in Cardiff when asked the same question now I can dazzle with talk of off grid energy!

I join UKLPG to work alongside Lisa, providing an extra pair of hands enabling her to devote more time to the lobbying and policy issues so critical to UKLPG's future and I look forward to working with you all.

In terms of my credentials... having most recently been employed as Communication Manager for a large national environmental charity I have a personal interest in challenging the perceptions of LPG and promoting its benefits and I hope to be able to contribute effectively in UKLPG's activities to achieve this.

Jo Preston

Last month saw 90 delegates representing all areas of the LPG industry descend on Cardiff to attend the 4th annual UKLPG conference.

The conference was opened by Vice Chair, Nikki Brown and was followed by Rob Shuttleworth, of UKLPG.

Highlights of the day included a presentation from Alain De Greve from AEGPL who talked about the importance of lobbying within Europe, and how in order to both resist and effect change the industry needs to have a strong single voice. A new 'roadmap' on Off Grid Energy will be launched in June by the AEGPL and all delegates were urged to take time to read this document and make comments as it will be used as



a major lobbying tool both in Europe and here at home. (A copy of this 'roadmap' will be available from June, visit the members lounge of the new UKLPG website.)

Rob Parnell from Zero Carbon Hub talked about the role LPG could play in helping the construction industry to achieve carbon neutral standards set out by Government whilst Chris Holmes from Purvin and Gertz addressed the changes within the global market with particular emphasis given to increases in supply, he stated "Global LPG supply will undergo a significant expansion between 2010 and 2015, rising by around 39 million tonnes."

The perception of LPG as a 'dirty fossil fuel' was also confronted, both by Nick Black of Argus Media and Andrew Ford of SHV Gas Ltd, both talked of how part of the challenge facing the industry was tackling this perception and how each and everyone of us has a role to play as an ambassador for the brand; whether that is within our own organisations, with stakeholders or directly with the consumer.



uklpg

annual conference 2011

Workshops included sessions on Autogas, LPG Technical Requirements, The Green Deal and the new Occupational Standards being developed specifically for the LPG industry. All were well attended with many witnessing a lively debate as delegates shared their experiences.

Rob Shuttleworth, said "I am delighted that so many of our members were able to join us in Cardiff. Whilst no one in attendance denied that the industry was facing a challenging future, it was more than apparent that LPG offered a solution to many of the aspects currently being discussed at the heart of Government, including the Green Deal and Off Grid Energy. As an industry we must work together to deliver the message highlighted so eloquently by Alison Abbott from WLPGA that LPG is indeed an Exceptional Energy."

Copies of all presentations given at the conference are available to download from the members lounge of the website.



Industry Super Sleuths....

The Gala dinner this year required the conference delegates to become super sleuths. As guests gathered for drinks a particularly grisly murder was committed, thank heavens then for sudden appearance of Mr Trumpington Mews, infamous detective. As the meal progressed guests were required to decipher clues as to the true identity of the murderer, a task made all the more difficult by the vast quantities of wine quaffed! However the Miss Marples of the evenings who ensured justice prevailed were guests seated at Table One: Rob Shuttleworth, Sarah Downes, Peter Ablett, James Smith, Sandra Dunn, Peter Groves, Geoff Clements, Dave Wenlock, and Steve Sargison. Well done to them.

...and finally UKLPG would like to thank the conference sponsors





Autogas News

Annual Visit introduced

As part of our commitment to improve the consistency and customer experience of the UKLPG Approved Autogas Installer scheme, Mike Chapman, Autogas Manager will be making annual visits to installers. These visits will serve two purposes:

- to help installers with regard to the Scheme, the Consumer Code, the Vehicle Register and to help keep installers up to date with industry issues.
- to ensure that each installer is meeting their commitments to the Scheme and the public with suitable equipment, information, records and notice.

To this end, the Christchurch office closed on the 28th April. Mike moves to work on a part time basis but continues to lead the scheme based 'out on the road', with Susanne, (see 'new faces' article), supporting Mike from the UKLPG office in Kenilworth.

Mike said "These changes will help to improve the Approved Autogas Installer Scheme both for the Installers and their customers. Administrative support provided by Susanne will ensure a more robust service for example Susanne will be available to help installers whilst I am away on holiday not something that we were available to offer in the past. These changes will also help with the continued viability of the Scheme."



New Faces

Susanne Sheperd, (pictured above) – Susanne joined the team on a part time basis in April. Whilst she is employed by SBGI, UKLPG's host company, she is contracted to provide support to Mike Chapman on all things Autogas including assisting with the register of approved installers. Outside of work Susanne is an avid fan of the latest fitness craze Zumba, so next time you call ask her to talk you through her moves.

Jo Preston (pictured on Introduction & Welcome on previous page) – Jo is the latest edition to the UKLPG family, also working on a part time basis. She joined the team in May and will be working alongside Lisa Thomson. Away from work Jo has two young daughters and helps to run a local children's theatre group.

Industry Update

The last 12 months have seen many positive changes for installers; the rebranding of the Scheme, the introduction of the Consumer Code as a step towards gaining OFT approval and the launch of the Vehicle Register. Importantly this has gained significant support from the insurance industry with 8 out of 10 major companies now requiring LPG vehicles to be on the register before insuring.

Successes were also achieved thanks to the recent Autogas lobbying campaign. Never before have we engaged with so many influential MP's and government officials whose tremendous support can only bode well for our continued lobbying for long term support within the government's fuel stabiliser policies.

Whilst conversions remain at a fairly static level there has been a small increase in the numbers of LPG vehicles on the road. Gas sales dropped by 7.7% - partly mirroring the drop in sales for petrol and diesel as the proportion of fuel efficient cars increases and motorists reduce their journeys because of the high cost of fuel. Future prospects however are encouraging as the economy improves, petrol prices rise and we continue to gain support on fuel duty.

This year has also witnessed a significant increase in visitors to our website with installers reporting an increase in business.

These small but significant successes bring an increased professionalism to the industry and provide a much improved basis for growth as we look to the future.

New National Occupational Standards in Development

The Training Working Group, together with E&U Skills has been working on creating a range of national occupational standards dedicated to LPG. These standards will create a nationally recognised framework for training people joining the industry. The modules created will offer employers a 'pick and mix' approach enabling them to create the most appropriate training for their business whilst ensuring that skills and competencies are both taught and tested.

To date the modules proposed by the expert working group are now being developed under the following titles:

1. Storage Vessels and Cylinders
2. Leisure Accommodation Vehicles
3. Boats
4. LPG Service Pipework
5. Mobile Catering
6. LPG Networks
7. Liquid Phase
8. Maintenance and Inspection
9. LPG Emergencies Networks*
10. LPG Emergencies Downstream*

It is hoped that now these standards are being created a nationally recognised 'Modern Apprenticeship' programme for the industry will be available in the near future, which may attract funding from the Government and offer the industry new routes and opportunities for employees. If you would like to get involved in this "once in ten year" opportunity for the industry then please do get in touch by emailing mail@uklpg.org

*completed

Networking... you are always at it

One of the givens when doing business today is the role that networking plays, a discipline often taken for granted, where it is always assumed that we all know exactly what it is and how to do it effectively, well do we?

The stand out benefit of attending any of the events organised by UKLPG is that of meeting with colleagues and peers from across the industry but attending a networking event can be daunting, especially if you are going for the first time.

When I was invited to attend the UKLPG conference on what was only my third day within the industry a range of thoughts ran through my mind; what to do, how to dress, what to say to people. I knew I couldn't simply stick with someone I already knew, the temptation when attending many of these type of events, as I didn't know anyone, should I just therefore become an observer and watch as others chatted away, but if I chose this option what would I gain?

So what to do when someone thrusts out their hand and says those immortal words "Hello and what do you do?" It's a bit like meeting the Queen, apparently that's what she asks people.

Well it needs to say so much more than your job title or your name. A sales pitch where the product on offer is you. It should be designed to be precise, informative and get the questioner to ask more about you. You can make it quirky to stay memorable however avoid being too cheesy as that can be a real turn off!

So in preparation for the forthcoming Autumn networking event (13th & 14th September at Shrigley Hall), I shall be working on my sales pitch, so when we meet I shall have an interesting and captivating way of introducing myself. Oh, by the way have I mentioned that I once cooked a pie made from real rats and fed it to hundreds of people?

Members



Just a reminder that the following documents are now available for download:

Quarter 1 Figures for UKLPG and the latest Sutherland Data Report.

New Members

UKLPG would like to welcome the following:

Full Members

Tankertech Ltd
Pressure Vessel Services Ltd

Affiliate Members

Credland Engineering Services

Don't miss....

The 2011 AEGPL Congress: Energy For The European Village - 22nd to 24th June, location: Bucharest, Romania.

UKLPG Annual General Meeting - 13th & 14th September, location: Shrigley Hall Hotel, Macclesfield.

To book your place at either of the above events visit the UKLPG website.

Dates for your diary....

UKLPG 5th annual Conference - 17th May 2012, location: Redworth Hall Hotel, County Durham. Redworth Hall Hotel offers a picture post card setting, it is a breathtaking Jacobean country house set in landscaped gardens and enchanting woodland, all only minutes from the A1.

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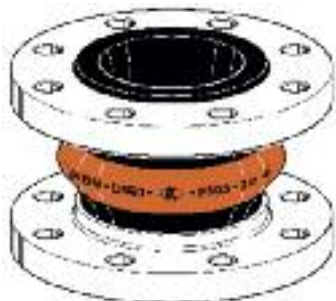
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