

Safe working with LPG-fuelled vehicles

The DOs and DON'Ts

DO assess the risks and precautions to be taken before starting work involving an LPG-fuelled vehicle. Ensure workers are trained and competent

DO follow the vehicle manufacturer's or system installer's instructions. Be aware of the locations of the LPG tank and fuel lines

DO provide safe places for parking and working on vehicles, eg away from drains, pits and other openings in the ground, and all sources of ignition

DO clearly identify vehicles, eg with suitably positioned signs, as a reminder to people working on them, especially those who may be carrying out 'hot work'

DO ensure that tools and equipment are appropriate for the hazardous area in which they are to be used

DO wear protective equipment (PPE) to prevent cold burns, eye damage and the discharge of static electricity whenever there is a risk of a release of LPG

DO ensure that the vehicle battery is disconnected when any part or all of the LPG system is to be removed. Always check re-assembled systems for leaks

DO store LPG fuel tanks which have not been emptied and gas-freed in a safe place, preferably in the open air

DO check with the vehicle manufacturer or system installer whether the LPG tank should be removed or emptied before drying/curing the paint in a spraybake oven. Where a maximum temperature is specified (which should not be greater than 40°C) ensure that the oven controls are set so it cannot be exceeded

DO carry out a roadside check for leaks and other damage to the LPG system on vehicles involved in accidents

DO train all staff in the emergency arrangements in the event of a fire or uncontrolled release of LPG, including the first-aid actions for dealing with cold burns

DON'T allow any work on an LPG vehicle, which could affect the fuel system, before you have identified the risks and precautions to be taken

DON'T work on an LPG vehicle, unless you are trained in the hazards of LPG and LPG fuel systems

DON'T assume that the fuel system is free from LPG. **DO** empty fuel lines to the engine by isolating the fuel tank and running the engine until it stops

DON'T do any work which could affect the LPG system without first considering isolating, physically protecting, emptying and gas-freeing or completely removing the system

DON'T carry out welding, burning or other hot work on an LPG vehicle within 1 m of its tank or fuel lines without a heat-resistant shield, or before the parts have been emptied or gas-freed

DON'T take a vehicle with a leaking LPG system into a workshop or other building. **DO** be aware of the action to be taken in an emergency

DON'T attempt roadside repairs unless you are trained and approved equipment is available

DON'T try to move a vehicle from the roadside if there are any leaks of LPG which cannot be stopped safely, eg by isolating the LPG tank. **DO** call the emergency services if the leak is uncontrollable or there is a fire

DON'T accept an LPG vehicle for scrapping or recycling unless you have procedures for the safe removal and disposal of the LPG system. **DO** identify LPG vehicles before taking them from their owners and park them in a safe place

DON'T crush a vehicle until the LPG tank has been removed by a competent person



Remember – work safely on LPG-fuelled vehicles