

Vehicle inspectors bulletin

'SIDEK PRX' pressure relief valves

For LPG accredited and Authorised Taxi Inspection Stations only



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Published 19 March 2007

Inspection of LPG tanks fitted with 'SIDEK PRX' pressure relief valves

Purpose

1. To instruct LPG accredited Authorised Inspection Station (AIS), Authorised Taxi Inspection Stations (ATIS) and Heavy Vehicle Authorised Inspection Station (HVAIS) examiners when inspecting LPG fuelled vehicles to check if the pressure relief valve fitted to the LPG tank is identified by the marks 'SIDEK PRX AGA 6394 2.55MPa' (Figure 1, page 2).
2. To provide additional inspection procedures for LPG tanks fitted with these valves.

Issue

There have been a number of pressure ruptures of tanks caused by valves that did not function as intended, believed to be due to incorrect torque level used during valve installation, causing a pressure build up and the tank to rupture. This has the potential for serious injury or death.

The photographs show examples of damage caused where a tank fitted with a SIDEK PRX valve has exploded.



Affected vehicles

All LPG fuelled vehicles in NSW whether used for private or commercial purposes.

For	■ AIS Proprietors & Examiners	■ HVAIS Proprietors & Examiners	■ ATIS Proprietors & Examiners
cc	■ RTA Inspectors Vehicle Regulation	■ RTA Registry Service Managers	■ Engineering Signatories

Inspection

Before commencing a Safety-Check Inspection of an LPG fuelled vehicle check the identifying marks of the LPG tank pressure relief valve. If the valve is stamped with the marks **SIDEK PRX AGA 6394 2.55MPa** (Figure 1 below), immediately suspend the inspection.

FIGURE 1: IDENTIFICATION OF 'SIDEK PRX' VALVE



The driver/operator must be advised to:

1. Immediately contact the tank manufacturer. If the tank is:
 - A 'Manchester' tank, the driver/operator should contact the company on 1800 335 383 who will direct them to a Manchester approved tank installer to have the tank/valve checked/replaced. Manchester Tank have advised that this service will be conducted free of charge.
 - If the tank is not a 'Manchester' tank, the driver/operator should contact the relevant tank manufacturer or an LPG installer/fitting/testing station to arrange for a safety assessment of the LPG tank and pressure valve fitted.
2. Not fill the LPG tank above 75 per cent of its maximum capacity until the valve is replaced and/or re-certification is completed.

Re-inspection

A new gas certificate or certificate of compliance must be provided before the vehicle can be returned for re-inspection. Provided that all other Safety Check requirements are met, the vehicle can be issued with a pink slip.

Implementation date

Immediately.

Attachment

Copy of 'SAFETY WARNING ON VEHICLE LPG TANKS' issued by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, Commonwealth of Australia, 21 December 2006.

Contact details for additional information

Manchester Tank Helpline (03) 5482 0500 (local call rate), or 1800 335 383.

LPG Australia website www.lpgaustralia.com.au



For further enquiries:



RTA Technical Enquiries, PO Box 1120, Parramatta NSW 2124



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SAFETY WARNING ON VEHICLE LPG TANKS

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, Chris Pearce, today issued a safety warning to owners of motor vehicles which had LPG conversions or who had their LPG tanks retested between mid 2003 and August 2005.

“Since early 2005, there have been a limited number of pressure ruptures of LPG tanks on motor vehicles, so far without causing any serious injury. However, rupture of an LPG tank due to a build up of pressure can generate very significant forces with the potential for serious injury and damage to property. Most of these incidents involved vehicles with two or more LPG tanks fitted,” Mr Pearce said.

The safety relief valve designed to relieve any adverse build up of pressure in the LPG tank/s may not function as intended, depending on the type of valve used and the torque levels used during installation.

If multiple LPG tanks are fitted and the fuel service line to the engine from one tank is closed, so that no fuel is used from that tank and it is maintained as a reserve tank, that tank may gradually overfill and may rupture if the pressure relief valve fails to operate correctly.

Motorists who had LPG tank installations or tanks retested between mid 2003 and August 2005, in particular if two or more tanks have been fitted, are requested to contact an LPG tank installer/fitting station to arrange an inspection and pressure relief valve replacement if required.

Vehicle owners should negotiate with the LPG installer/fitting station on an appropriate fee (if any) for any corrective action required. If the tank/s are “Manchester” branded tanks which were fitted between August 2003 and April 2005, these are subject to a voluntary recall and the pressure relief valves fitted will be replaced at no cost.

21 December 2006
MELBOURNE

Contact:
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