

**LETTERHEAD OF ECONOMIC SERVICES BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**

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28 June 2000

Mr Andy Lau
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Economic Services
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lau,

Proposed Approval Scheme for Domestic Gas Appliances

At the Economic Services Panel meeting on 19 June, in discussing the proposed approval scheme for domestic gas appliances, Members enquired about the safety requirements for portable cassette cookers and other cooking facilities used in catering establishments. I am writing to provide further information.

The proposed approval scheme for domestic gas appliances (LC Paper No. CB(1) 1818/99-00(01)) will apply to all gas appliances which are designed, or intended, to be used primarily in domestic premises, irrespective of whether it is so used. These will include cooking appliances fuelled by disposable gas containers (i.e. portable cassette cookers) which may be used both inside and external to premises, although they are also increasingly used in catering establishments. In other words, all portable cassette cookers manufactured or imported for use in Hong Kong should be type approved by the Gas Authority and display an approved mark. The approved cookers should be equipped with flame protection equipment, which would greatly enhance their safety standard. Nonetheless, the proposed requirement for installation by registered installers will not be applicable to this category of free-standing appliances.

As regards gas cooking appliances used only in catering establishments, their safe installation and use are already regulated by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations and two codes of practice covering LPG and Towngas installations for catering purposes in commercial premises.

I hope the above information will clarify the issue.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Rachel Chan)
for Secretary for Economic Services

c.c. DEMS (Attn: Mr Roger Lai) Fax: 2890 7493