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Office of Technology Management
Bureau of Fire Prevention



9 METROTECH CENTER – BROOKLYN, NY 11201

TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BULLETIN # 01/2013

SUBJECT:

This document clarifies the permit process, operational guidelines and minimum safety precautions to be followed when liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fueled heaters are used for bed bugs eradication and elevated temperature treatment, inside portions of occupied buildings or inside entire structures in New York City. The heaters and the connected LPG containers shall be placed outdoors, using flexible ducts to provide the hot air inside the buildings subject to the bed bugs eradication treatment.

The Fire Department will allow the temporary use of portable LPG containers for pest extermination, subject to the conditions and limitations outlined in this Bulletin.

APPLICABLE CODES AND REGULATIONS:

Except as otherwise provided in this bulletin, the storage, handling and use of LPG shall comply with Fire Code Chapter 38 "*Liquefied Petroleum Gases*", Fire Department rule 3RCNY § 3801-01 "*Liquefied Petroleum Gases*"; and referenced standard NFPA 58 "*Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*".

APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION (VARIANCE):

An Application for Modification (Variance) from the provisions of the New York City Fire Code shall be submitted for review to the Technology Management Unit of Fire Department, and approved prior to applying and obtaining a city wide LPG use permit for bed bug eradication. Relevant information related to the LPG extermination operations shall be provided on the application.

The application for modification, form "BFP-MOD (10/09)", can be obtained at the Fire Department's website:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/pdf/fire_prevention/modification_variances.pdf

REQUIRED PERMIT:

A citywide permit for the transportation and for the use of LPG containers for pest extermination shall be obtained from the Hazardous Cargo Vehicle Unit (HCVIU) – Bureau of Fire Prevention based on the Modification (Variance) approval. Contact HCVIU at (718) 752-0296 to arrange for vehicle inspection and citywide permit issuance, prior to commencing operations at any site.

ALL MODIFICATION (VARIANCE) APPROVALS AND FDNY PERMITS ARE VALID FOR ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DAY OF ISSUANCE. THEY SHALL BE RENEWED YEARLY BEFORE EACH EXPIRATION DATE.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATION FOR LPG OPERATION:

The operation of the LPG fueled heaters, for heat treatment extermination operations, and the LPG containers shall be under the **continuous** personal supervision of FDNY Certificate of Fitness holder.

Where LPG container(s) and connected LPG heater(s) are not positioned together and there are LPG container(s) and connected LPG heater(s) which are not in the direct line of sight of a certificate of fitness holder on duty, additional certificate of fitness holder(s) **shall be assigned** to provide direct supervision.

Information regarding how to obtain the certificate of fitness for supervision of portable LPG fueled space heaters (S-92), and the examination study material can be found at Fire Department’s website:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/c_of_f/coff.shtml.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

Notifications to Local Fire Department Borough Command

Prior to commencement of extermination operations at each work site, the appropriate local Fire Department Borough Command office shall be notified of LPG use. This notification shall be fulfilled at a minimum of 48 hours prior to bringing any LPG container to a site. The New York City Borough Command offices and contact information are listed as follows:

Bronx Borough Command:	718-430-0210	bxboro@fdny.nyc.gov
Queens Borough Command:	718-476-8420	qnsboro@fdny.nyc.gov
Brooklyn Borough Command:	718-965-0434	bkboro@fdny.nyc.gov
Manhattan Borough Command:	212-570-1518	manboro@fdny.nyc.gov
Staten Island Borough Command:	718-494-7370	siboro@fdny.nyc.gov

Work Site Preparation

- Areas subjected to pest extermination shall be inspected by the operator prior to start of extermination. Such areas shall be properly prepared for the heat application, and all flammable & combustible liquids, heat-sensitive materials and materials susceptible to self-ignition shall be removed.
- While LPG containers are on site, not less than two portable fire extinguishers, with at least a 20-B:C rating must be readily available, per LPG container, or group of LPG containers.

Temporary use of LPG at Work Sites:

- The maximum aggregate quantity of LPG at any one site shall not exceed 400 pounds, and no individual container shall exceed 100 pounds.
- Connecting and disconnecting of LPG containers must be performed outdoors, in well-ventilated areas, by a certificate of fitness holder.
- A soap test shall be performed by the certificate of fitness holder each time a container is connected to ensure tightness of connections.
- LPG containers shall be removed from the job site at the end of each work day.
- LPG containers shall not be left unattended on-site.
- LPG containers must be secured in an upright position to prevent movement when in use, and placed on a firm and noncombustible foundation.
- The LPG containers shall be adequately protected from theft, tampering, and/or unauthorized use.
- Portable LPG containers and heaters shall be placed outdoors. LPG containers and heaters are prohibited in below grade areas.
- Portable LPG containers are prohibited for use on building roofs unless rooftop is constructed out of noncombustible materials.
- Containers shall be placed as far as practically possible from combustible materials and sources of ignition.

Equipment

- All appliances and equipment used during operation shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Heaters must be equipped with a high temperature safety shut-off switch.
- Heaters must be placed not less than six (6) feet from any LPG container or combustible material.
- Non-metallic hoses used to connect heaters to LPG containers shall be designed for LPG use and shall withstand a working pressure of 350 psi. The hose shall not exceed a length of 30 feet.
- Connected hoses and hot air tubes must not obstruct building openings, exit access doors, stairways or any areas used as a means of egress.
- Fans and tubes used to displace hot air inside the treated areas should be rated for the operating temperatures that will be created at the heat source. Malfunctioning heaters, LPG containers or LPG supply hoses shall be immediately removed from service and removed from the premises. No repairs of LPG connected heaters, LPG containers or LPG supply hoses shall be conducted on site.