



Portable gas cooking appliances in restaurants

Building and Energy has noticed an increase in the use of unapproved portable gas cooking appliances operating on butane canisters. The commercial use of these appliances, particularly used as table-top gas cooking appliances in indoor restaurant environments, has resulted in gas explosions injuring consumers.

This fact sheet is intended to raise awareness by highlighting the 2016 WA prohibition order and the potential effects on restaurant design and patron safety.

Responsible parties

- Restaurant owners;
- local council environmental health officers;
- restaurant designers/project managers; and
- non-gas trades (cabinet makers and ventilation/exhaust contractors).

Issue

Western Australian restaurants are increasingly offering table-top barbeque-style cooking and dining experiences, similar to overseas.

Because of the nature of the appliances featuring a butane cartridge/canister, a gasfitter is not engaged for installation. Therefore a gasfitter, and subsequently a gas supplier, do not have an opportunity to ensure appliance approval and safety.

Australian approved gas appliances can easily be identified as they feature both:

1. an approval number, and
2. an approval body mark, like the one below.



If you are unsure whether your gas portable cooking appliance is approved, or you are unsure where it can be used, the conditions of approvals can be confirmed by the approval body whom provided the certification or can be verified by looking up the approval number on the [Gas Technical Regulators Committee National Certification database](#).

If the gas appliance does not feature an approval number and an appliance body mark, then the appliance must not be used in Western Australia.

Key issues

All gas appliances must be approved for supply and installation in Western Australia because:

- unapproved appliances may cause significant harm such as burns, breathing difficulties or worse;
- using outdoor appliances indoors is likely to cause significant health issues and can result in death; and
- not all domestic appliances are suitable nor safe for commercial applications.

Recommendations

Restaurant owners must ensure potable gas cooking appliances:

- are approved for use in Western Australia;
- are approved for use in a commercial application; and
- located and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and any warning labels.

Building and Energy can provide advice to you before the purchase of gas appliances.

Western Australia prohibition order and its effectiveness

Following an investigation of an incident, the Director of Energy Safety issued a prohibition order banning the use of portable gas cooking appliances in any indoor location or in any commercial application.

Please refer to the prohibition order published on page 1804 EN 401 of the government gazette: [Gas Standards \(portable gas cooking appliances\) Prohibition Order 2016](#).

A person who fails to comply with this notice may be prosecuted and can be fined up to \$250,000.

If you are in any doubt, please contact a licensed gasfitter or Building and Energy for further advice.

Examples of unapproved portable gas appliances found in use within restaurants

Built-in table-top cooker.



Figure 1 – Example 1 of table-top style cooking.

Cooktop with a wok trivet.



Figure 2 – Example 2 of table-top style cooking.

Disclaimer – The information contained in this fact sheet is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

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