

## Guidelines for the Safe Use of Mobile Heaters

**Important! Please read and follow these few simple guidelines for the use of your mobile heater to ensure the Health and Safety of yourself and others who may be affected.**

Mobile gas heaters are a safe economical source of winter warmth if looked after properly serviced and used in accordance with manufacturers instructions. They should comply with the requirements of BS EN449 and carry a CE certification mark. (Appliances prior to 1992 will comply with the requirements of BS 5258 Parts 10 & 11 and carry the BSI Kite Mark). These old appliances should be replaced with newer ones.

### Mobile Heaters Should

- **NOT** be located so as to restrict means of escape
- **NOT** have clothes placed over it
- **NOT** be positioned near to chairs or other furnishings, alongside a wall or near to curtains. Always face the heater towards the centre of the room.
- **NOT BE MOVED WHILST LIT**
- **Be used with suitable** fire guards to provide additional protection, especially where children and the elderly are likely to be present.

### Mobile Heaters should not be used in

- **Garages** as petrol vapour may be present, nor should they be used wherever highly flammable materials are commonly stored.
- **Bathrooms** or shower rooms
- **Bedrooms** where there are ready combustible material such as bed coverings, clothes, curtains etc.

### Use of Mobile Heaters in Schools & Hospitals

- If mobile heaters are not the normal source of heating, they should only be brought into a room when required and should be removed when normal heating is restored.
- Mobile heaters should only be handled, lit and controlled by a trained and authorised person.
- The mobile heaters should only be obtained from reputable suppliers. If the equipment is hired, again it should be from a reputable supplier who has adequate facilities to ensure proper service and maintenance.
- The mobile heaters should be carefully examined prior to use after a spell in storage.
- The number of mobile heaters in a room should be kept to a minimum.
- The mobile heater should not be exposed to drafts or located in corridors.
- The mobile heater should be positioned with at least one meter clear space around it. It can be placed adjacent to a wall provided that the hot surface is facing away from the wall and there are no curtains or other combustible materials within the metre space.
- The location of mobile heaters in laboratories, art rooms or workrooms where highly flammable materials may be used requires special consideration. If a safe location cannot be found a mobile heater should not be used.
- It is essential that adequate ventilation is provided and maintained in rooms where heaters are used.

## Guidelines for the Safe Use of Mobile Heaters

### Use of Mobile Heaters in High Rise Buildings and Flats

- Mobile heaters may only be used in flats of traditional construction with up to four storeys (including any basement storey)
- Mobile Heater must not be used in high rise unstrengthened large panel system built flats.
- Not more than 15kg of butane should be kept per unit dwelling

### Service and Maintenance

All LPG appliances should be serviced regularly to the manufacturer's instructions and by a competent person to ensure that it is working correctly.

All flexible hoses should be approved to BS3212 type 2 or BSEN1763 class B which bear the year and name of manufacturer and regularly inspected for signs of deterioration, cracking etc. and should be replaced if over 5 years old or if they show obvious signs of damage or wear.

The regulator should be approved to BS3016 or BSEN12864 and should be replaced after 10 years service. N.B. some SRG butane regulators 541.101 made by Schulz and Rackow and dated (Sept 96 – Nov97) have failed quality control checks. A replacement regulator is available free of charge.

Calor offers a Heater Health Check Service, for more information call 0845 7 234 432

### Ventilation

The room in which the mobile heater is being used must be well ventilated; this is to ensure that the mobile heater is receiving an adequate supply of fresh air. Ensure that if the room has ventilators and grilles, they are not blocked. Most rooms have fresh air entering around the doors and windows, however, if the room becomes stuffy open a window or door immediately.

### Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas which can be produced if the mobile heater is not working correctly. It is difficult to recognise as it has no colour, smell or taste. Symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to that of a viral infection. It affects the mental ability causing a person to become incapable without knowing.

#### Symptoms of exposure to Carbon Monoxide

- Tightness across the forehead
- Headache
- Severe headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting.
- Coma, intermittent convulsions
- Depressed heart action, slowed respiration.
- If the exposure has been severe it may cause death.

If your mobile heater has any of the following, It could be producing carbon monoxide, so **switch it off and do not use it again** until it has been checked.

- Burner panels which are dull and burn with a blue haze.
- There are soot deposits on the panels.
- The burner panels or cement fixings are damaged
- The mobile heater does not burn quietly



# Technical Publication

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### Second – Hand Mobile Heaters

Many accidents are caused by faulty gas appliances involve those, which may have been purchased second hand. Special care is needed if you buy a second hand mobile heater. Have it checked by a competent person to ensure it is operating correctly and that all safety devices are functioning for safety. **If you have any doubts do not buy.**

### Emergency Procedure

#### In the event of a gas leak or suspected gas leak

- Extinguish all naked flames and ignition sources.
- Turn off all gas appliances
- Do not switch on or off any electrical equipment
- Open all doors and windows to increase ventilation.
- Turn off gas supply at cylinder
- Call the Calor Gas Emergency Service **0845 7 444999**
- Do not use the mobile heater until it has been made safe and tested.

#### In the event of fire

- Call the Fire Brigade immediately and inform them that LPG cylinder(s) are on the premises.
- Turn off the gas supply if possible and **only if it safe to do so.**

If you require further advice please contact the Technical Help Desk at Tachbrook Park (0845 602 1143)

**CALOR GAS EMERGENCY SERVICE – 0845 7 444999  
(ALL CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE)**

The information in this document is intended to give guidance and believed to be accurate and represent good practice at the time of publication. It does not replace the need to consult other formal documents where further information may be required.

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