



The trade association for the LP Gas industry in the UK

Media Release

Date: Friday 19th October 2012

UKLPG criticises dangerous activity in Channel 4's 'Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home'

On behalf of the liquefied petroleum gas industry in the UK, UKLPG has this week contacted the production team and the broadcaster of the programme 'Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home' to draw their attention to the irresponsible footage of Kevin and his team dismantling a gas cylinder to use in heating a hot tub (episode aired Sunday 14th October).

The letter is as follows:

Dear Sir,

UKLPG, the trade association for UK LPG distributors, is extremely concerned to note that in Episode 4 of the current series of Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home (which aired on Sunday 14th October, 8pm) of which I believe you are Series Producer, you showed Kevin and his team converting an old gas cylinder in to a wood burner to heat their hot tub. This included footage of the cylinder being dismantled, using a saw.

Such activity is not just highly dangerous but also unlawful. Throughout the duration of their life gas cylinders remain the property of the gas cylinder company and it is only they who, as the owner, can dispose of the cylinder.

Apart from it being unlawful, the dangers of cutting up a gas cylinder should be self evident. You should know that the Health and Safety Executive recently successfully prosecuted a company where one of their employees had been seriously injured whilst trying to do exactly what your programme was promoting:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2012/rnn-se-3112.htm>

Any vessel which contains a highly flammable and potentially explosive substance must be handled responsibly and with respect. Unfortunately a man was killed only 3 months ago when he took an angle grinder to a supposedly empty oil drum: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-19035426>

By showing such activity, we are concerned that you are not only promoting an unlawful activity to the wider general British public but also potentially endangering the lives of viewers who aspire to follow in Kevin's footsteps and follow his advice.

We ask that this footage is removed from 4oD so that future viewers are not endangered in this manner and also all future repeat showings of this programme. We would also ask you to broadcast a warning to viewers of future episodes of the series that "Since making our programme, it has been brought to our attention that the dismantling of cylinders is both unlawful and extremely dangerous. We apologise for appearing to endorse this dangerous activity and urge any viewers not to undertake any similar activity at any time."

You may be aware that the AA recently had to publish a similar retraction.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly, and would advise you that we are making the contents of this letter public by distributing it to the press and placing it on our website.

Yours faithfully,

Rob Shuttleworth

Chief Executive, UKLPG

UKLPG is awaiting a response from both Channel 4 and Optomen TV regarding this, and would like to remind all users of gas cylinders that undertaking such activity is both unlawful and extremely dangerous.

Ends

UKLPG is the national trade association and voice of LPG within the UK, representing a membership of companies who are producers, distributors, equipment and service providers and vehicle converters.

www.uklpg.org

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