



# APPROVED INSTALLERS NEWS

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LPGA APPROVED INSTALLER SCHEME for improved Safety, Emissions and Customer Service

## BUDGET SUCCESS

Following extensive lobbying by the Association, including the undertaking of the costly Emission Testing Programme at the end of last year, the government has continued strong support for LPG.

The Chancellor, in his speech, acknowledged both the low carbon and air quality environmental benefits of LPG and announced a continuation of the existing differential arrangement in the fuel duty between LPG and petrol / diesel through to 2010.

The figures published mean that over the next three years the fuel duty for petrol and diesel will rise by 5.84p to 54.19p per litre whilst that for LPG will rise by 6.305p to 12.41p per litre.

Additionally the VED reduction for LPG cars registered after March 2001 was increased by up to 100% depending on the CO2 band.

Vehicles converted to LPG (as evidenced by the production of an LPGA Approved Installer "LPG Conversion Certificate") are eligible for the following reduction in VED:

Vehicles registered on or after 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001  
£20 per year for vehicles in bands B to E  
(increased from £10)  
£15 per year for vehicles in band F  
(increased from £10)

Vehicles registered on or after 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 (for which band G applies)  
£15 per year  
(increased from £10)

This is a clear message of support for LPG in the long term, giving assurance to the industry and confidence to motorists and fleet managers to purchase LPG vehicles and contribute to a cleaner motoring environment.

## 2007 Forum and Trade Show



Following the very positive comments from last year, the Association will run a similar event specifically for LPGA Approved Installers. This year it will be on **Tuesday 19th June** at the Conference Centre in Binley, Coventry.

The Forum is held in the morning with presentations and an open discussion period as before.

The Trade Show will take place over the lunch period and during the afternoon when the equipment suppliers will be on their stands for discussions with those attending.

The major equipment suppliers have all agreed to take stands and the invitations with full details will be sent to all installers at the end of April.

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# Promoting LPG



## LPG cars park for free in Westminster

Following representations by the Association, Westminster City Council announced a milestone in support for LPG.

With effect from the end of April, Westminster residents who own or switch to eco-friendly cars will be exempt from residents' parking charges in the City - a saving of up to £110 a year.

The exemption covers hybrid cars as well as those powered by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and hydrogen fuel cells.

The Council hopes the move will help cut pollution levels in Westminster which are some of the highest in the UK because of the sheer volume of traffic travelling through the City every day.

Councillor Danny Chalkley, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport, said: "It's everybody's responsibility to do what they can to limit their impact on the environment. We believe these new measures will help reduce carbon emissions and make a real difference."

## London Borough to give parking discounts for LPG

The London Borough of Richmond have announced that LPG vehicles will benefit from discounts on their proposed CO2 based resident parking permit charges.

Following this the Association has made representations to all the London Boroughs to follow suit with Richmond

## Autogas Campaign 2007

The Executive Committee have agreed a budget to support LPGA Approved Installers for a trial promotion in a major conurbation. This will be developed in the second half of the year as resources become available following the office move to the Midlands.

The Association will work with local installers to arrange co-ordinated activities over say a fortnight to include local radio advertising, local newspaper advertising, publicity material, "roadshows" on local forecourts and presentations to local fleets and car dealers.

## London Congestion Charge



The Powershift Register continues

to expand with new vehicles being added which are eligible for the 100% discount on this charge.

Transport for London have announced a review of the charge and propose that from 2008 the charge will vary according to the CO2 emissions of vehicles, with those under 120gm/km being exempt, those with 120gm/km to 225gm/km continuing at £8 per day and those over 225gm/km being charged £25 per day..

Full details are on the Boost website and the Association is in discussion with TfL to establish the discounts which should apply to LPG vehicles in the future.

Meanwhile TfL have confirmed that owners who obtain the 100% discount in 2007 will continue to receive this same discount until 2010.

The Association was represented at 11 shows / conferences last year. We already have two bookings this year and hope to have similar opportunities as last year for 2007.

## LPG Awareness Day – 1<sup>st</sup> March

We had a stand at the LPG Awareness Day organised by Arun Autogas.



The event was also supported by Autogas Ltd, CLS Dual Fuel, Calor UK and Millbrook Proving Ground.

There were a variety of LPG cars on display in the workshops and available for test drives, together with presentations to the audience who included members of the public, fleet managers from large businesses and representatives from local councils and emergency services.

Despite the hard work preparing for the event James Joyce of Arun Autogas said "The event was very enjoyable and has generated a lot of positive response from all who attended."

## Private Hire and Taxi Monthly Exhibition – May 2007

The Association will have a stand at this annual show in Coventry to raise the profile of LPG and support those installers who are taking a stand.

# AUTOGAS UPDATES

## Petrol / LPG prices

At the time of preparing this newsletter it is clear that the average price of LPG is rapidly closing to half that of unleaded petrol and is already below half that of diesel.

As further encouragement there is worldwide widespread speculation that oil prices are on the increase following on from the problems in the Middle East.

The only information we have on prices is that published by [www.petrolprices.com](http://www.petrolprices.com) and Fleet News. We understand that these rely on information from petrol stations and fuel cards respectively and thus for LPG would not reflect the many independent refuelling facilities which are often cheaper.

We receive anecdotal information of high prices for LPG on some forecourts but we should not forget that there are also high prices for petrol. Indeed [www.petrolprices.com](http://www.petrolprices.com) currently quote a "spread" between the lowest and highest price for LPG of 13p whereas that for petrol is 14.1p.

The price of LPG versus petrol has an undoubted impact on the conversion business but it is in installer's own interest to contact local media to highlight the savings which can be made and which can be assured over the long period with the commitment from the government as outlined on page 1 of this newsletter.

If installers wish to have further free supplies of the "40%" leaflets to assist with spreading the word please contact Jean Hazel or Mike Chapman at the office.

## Road Safety Act 2006

The Road Safety Bill completed its passage through Parliament and became an Act at the end of 2006.

Clause 56 amended the Road Traffic Act 1988 to provide enabling legislation for the Department of Transport to introduce compulsory inspections following a vehicle conversion to run on LPG.

The Association has been lobbying for many years for this legislation and we are now working with the Department for Transport who will be drawing up proposals for the Minister.

Discussions so far indicate that it would not be cost effective for all MOT stations to be trained up for this work and ways are being considered as to how best to utilise the skill base of LPGA Approved Installers to undertake these inspections.

## LPGA Emission Testing Programme

The tests of 10 vehicles were successfully completed for the Department for Transport.

We are very pleased to advise that all the vehicles demonstrated CO2 savings to substantiate our claims of a 10% reduction and also performed very well on Hydrocarbons and NOx.

Our subsequent meeting with the DfT went well and no doubt these results assisted in the success for LPG in the Budget.

A full report will be available following the final tests on the vehicles at the end of this year when they have completed further mileage on LPG.

## Fuel Contamination

In the second quarter of last year we received a number of calls reporting contaminated LPG in the North West / West Midlands.

In response the Association arranged for a sample of the contaminant to be analysed. This did not show any new forms of contaminant but a high concentration of the usual elements of heavy ends.

We requested reports from the installers / customers so that the distribution of the LPG could be investigated. However we only received 26 reports which, whilst referred to the gas supply companies, were insufficient to identify the source of the problem.

Not all makes of conversion equipment seemed to be affected by the problem.

In addition we received two reports from Hampshire but this number did not indicate a wider problem.

The gas supply companies are very concerned that the reputation of LPG is maintained and do wish to have details of any problems that are identified so that they can establish the source.

When problems occur that are related to contamination could installers please complete with the customer the "Vehicle LPG Fuel System Contamination Report" and send it to the Association. It is only by having these forms that the situation can be investigated.

The forms can be downloaded from the AI secure Area of the

## TECHNICAL MATTERS

### Quality Assurance Inspections

The programme, introduced in 2006 has proved highly successful.

Some 90 inspections have been undertaken, and with 79 passes the standard is very encouraging. Of the 11 "fails" only two were considered to be major (resulting in 1 formal warning and 1 company being removed from the Scheme) with the remaining 9 receiving advice from the inspector on how to achieve improved standards.

The common areas of failure were insecure ECU's, insecure injector rails and wiring.

### THE VOICE of INSTALLERS

Please remember the LPGA Approved Installer Committee wants to hear from you. Any issues that you want to raise to help the Association help you please contact Mike Chapman or anyone on the Committee

This Committee is represented on the Autogas Development Committee and thus provides your voice to the Executive Committee of the Association .

**John Waghorn** Chairman  
Nicholson McLaren

**David King** Alternattech

**Colin Seeney** Autogas Worldwide

**Stuart Eckersley** Gastech  
Vehicle Conv.

**Richard Neville** Herts Autogas

**Martyn Soer** Jaymic Systems

**Robin McKenzie** Millbrook

**Lloyd Ash** Lloyd Ash

**Ray Gardiner** Northern Autogas

**James Tait** Wellside Motors  
(for Scotland)

### Tilt / Inertia Switches

The Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations contain special requirements for buses and minibuses (generally defined as carrying more than 8 passengers).

Details are included in COP 11 but many installers have had difficulty in sourcing the required Tilt and Inertia switches.

We have been advised by John Padget of Central Garage (Carcroft) that he can now supply these. His contact details are on the list of LPGA Approved Installers.

### DAEWOO Problems

Malcolm Pratt of Power Torque has advised of a problem which is becoming frequent with the factory conversions by Daewoo. The vehicles experience running problems on gas but the problem lies with a blocked or worn heater matrix

As the vapouriser only uses the heater circuit, when there are problems with the matrix this is usually first seen in running problems on gas. A tell tale sign is the heater performing poorly.

### JOINERS and LEAVERS since the December Newsletter

Welcome to the following:

Avon Autogas	Bristol
B & H Autokraft	South Yorkshire
British LPG	London
S P Simnett	West Midlands

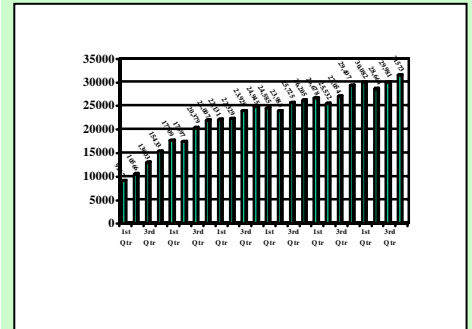
Leavers

Centaur Overland travel in Kent have left the Scheme.

### INDUSTRY HEADLINES

See the latest LPG news from the UK and around the world on [www.boostlpg.com](http://www.boostlpg.com) updated weekly

### Gas sales growth slows



Total sales for 2006 at 120,300 tonnes were 10.7% up on 2005.

However in the first half of 2006 growth was over 12% but fell back to 7.4% in the final quarter

### Aftermarket conversions show small increase in 2006

The annual survey undertaken by the Association revealed that following a strong start in 2006 overall conversions in the aftermarket showed a small increase over 2005.

The figure of 14,675 for 2005 increased to 15,000 of which 70% were undertaken by LPGA Approved Installers.

After allowing for LPG conversions decommissioned there are an estimated 138,000 LPG vehicles on the road in the UK.