



Safety in Mobile Catering Vehicles

Listed below are some of the hazards associated with mobile catering vehicles and examples of the precautionary measures which could be taken to prevent accidents caused by these hazards. The list is by no means exhaustive and will vary according to your own particular operation. As a starting point use the blank sheet provided in this pack and carry out your own simple risk assessment.

Main Types of Risk

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

Once mixed with air in small concentrations LPG can become highly flammable and explosive. If there is a leak in a confined space, there may be a risk of asphyxiation.

Managing the Risk

- Keep LPG cylinders in a suitable well ventilated storage compartment, outside the vehicle (see photograph overleaf).
- Ensure that this compartment is capable of preventing damage to the cylinders (e.g. by other vehicles) and can be locked to prevent tampering.
- Check pipework and fittings regularly and replace any that are showing signs of wear.
- Have LPG appliances serviced periodically.
- Keep combustible material and ignition sources away from LPG cylinders.
- Provide a means for isolating the supply inside the vehicle.
- Ensure that the partition between the interior of the vehicle and the LPG compartment is of adequate fire resistance.
- Ensure that persons changing cylinders are properly trained to do so.

Electrical Safety

Risk of fire or electric shock due to:

Inadequate earthing

Inadequate protection of conductors

Inadequate maintenance

Improper use of generators

- Ensure that your electrical system (whether 12 volt or 240 volt) is properly maintained.
- Use a qualified electrical contractor to carry out repairs and to check the safety of the entire system.
- If you use a 240 volt supply taken from another premises (either domestic or commercial) you should ensure that:
 - Your supply is protected by a 30 mA Residual Current Device (RCD).
 - All exposed metal parts (e.g. worktops or the walls of the vehicle) are bonded and earthed.
 - The supply cables are well insulated, protected and supported to prevent physical damage.
- Take great care with portable generators. Precautions depend on the type of generator, but include, earthing, equipotential bonding and adequate protection and insulation of cables.