



GAS APPLIANCES
TECHNICAL GUIDANCE BULLETIN

Bulletin Number: 12
Bulletin Date: 1 March 2018
Product Type: Portable space heaters
Relevant Standard(s): AS 2658 – 2008 *LP Gas- Portable and mobile appliances*
Relevant Clause(s) Section 4
Subject: Safety requirements for portable space heaters

Guidance to be provided:

CONTROLS AND SAFETY DEVICES

A portable space heater not intended for connection to a cylinder shall be fitted with a gas control such that its operation is limited to two settings as follows:

- a) Maximum operating gas consumption, and
- b) The gas control in a closed position with no gas flow to the burner and/or pilot burner.

A portable space heater not intended for connection to a cylinder shall not be able to be adjusted to any operating setting where the gas consumption is less than the nominal gas consumption.

Note: This bulletin does not apply to flueless heaters that have been certified to AS4553 or AS/NZS 5263.1.3

Reason: Safety concerns have been identified with portable space heaters assessed against AS 2658 – 2008 whereby they may produce unsafe emissions under some operating conditions.

In addition, the Gas Technical Regulators are aware of fatalities and injuries that have occurred due to the foreseeable misuse of these heaters in confined spaces (e.g. tents, cars, caravans, etc.)

Further, it has been established that the requirement contained in AS 2658 has been interpreted differently between the conformity assessment bodies.

Action(s): Conformity assessment bodies are to ensure that these heaters cannot be operated at less than the maximum operating gas consumption when assessing this product type for certification.

Conformity assessment bodies are to create new and unique certification numbers for certifications that have been issued in conjunction with this bulletin. A note shall be added to the related entry in the GTRC National Certification Database.

Transition:

1. For all new applications for certification made after the date of this bulletin, this bulletin must be adhered to immediately.
2. For existing certifications and applications received prior to the date of this bulletin, a minimum 12 month period has been granted to allow suppliers and manufacturers to modify products and amend their certifications. Certifications and existing applications must comply with this bulletin within 12 months or must be suspended or cancelled.

This bulletin provides technical guidance from the Gas Technical Regulators to Conformity Assessment Bodies that are JASANZ accredited for the certification of gas appliances required to comply with AS3645. This technical guidance is provided where the technical requirements or test methodologies from current technical standards are inadequate or can be misinterpreted. This bulletin is valid until such time as the relevant technical standard is revised or amended accordingly.



Result:

The safety of portable space heaters will be improved and the risk of foreseeable misuse has been reduced by removing the ability to turn down the gas consumption.

Proposed Revision(s) to Standard(s):

Refer to the technical guidance above, which should be included in any future revision of AS 2658