

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FLUELESS GAS SPACE HEATERS – CHANGES EXPLAINED

Gas safety authority, Energy Safe Victoria (ESV), wishes to clarify that there is no requirement under new regulations for existing flueless gas space heaters to be removed from residential premises.

Acting Director of Energy Safety, Mr Paul Fearon, said: "ESV is very aware that there is some concern throughout the community relating to new regulations covering the installation of the heaters.

"For instance there is a belief, wrongly held, that existing flueless gas space heaters have to be removed from homes and alternative heating sources used.

"I wish to make it absolutely clear that there is no requirement under the new regulations for existing flueless space heaters to be removed from residential premises."

Mr Fearon explained that under Section 29 of the Gas Safety (Gas Installations) Regulations 2008 which came into force in Victoria on 18 January 2009, a person cannot install any flueless space heater as a new installation in residential premises, which includes a caravan or boat.

Under the same provision, a person is not to install or locate for use a connection device (quick connect, bayonet connection) for a flueless space heater in residential premises which again includes a caravan or boat.

He said that existing flueless space heaters can be replaced with a new flueless space heater provided the heater meets certain requirements. They are:

- The heater being replaced, and its replacement, operates on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG);
- The emission of oxides of nitrogen from the new heater does not exceed 2.5 ng/J; and,
- The carbon monoxide/carbon dioxide ratio of the new heater does not exceed 0.002.

"There are very good reasons for the changes. They result partly from long term concerns on the health risks posed to some sections of the community, i.e. the young, elderly and asthmatic sufferers, by flueless space heaters.

"It is also important to appreciate that new ventilation requirements for five and six star rated residential premises will likely restrict the escape of emissions resulting from the use of flueless space heaters."

Mr Fearon said that heaters meeting the new requirements are already on the market with further models to follow.

"The new heaters should display plates indicating that they meet the required emission standards. If in doubt purchasers should consult either their retailer or the gasfitter who should be consulted before carrying out the changeover."

Under the changes, there are some premises where flueless space heaters cannot be installed or replaced and they include hospitals, community health centres, residential care facilities, schools, colleges and children's centres.

#### Further information:

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Contact the above to arrange an interview with Mr Fearon.