

Rules governing the validity periods for LPGSASA Appliance Verification Permits.

The validity period of Appliance Verification Permits is dependant on the Quality Management System in place in the factory in which the appliances are manufactured. There are three level and the quilificationd for each are described below

1.1 Three year permits

Where a supplier (local or overseas) has ISO 9000 in place in the factory in which the products are produced, then the permit validity period shall be 3 years.

Where the supplier (local or overseas) has an acceptable fully documented In-House QMS in place in the factory in which the products are produced, then the permit validity period shall be 3 years.

Where the supplier is a local manufacturer then the In-House QMS shall be audited by the LPGSASA. Where the manufacturer is overseas then the supplier is required to present a set of QMS documentation detailing the system principles to the LPGSASA. The LPGSASA retains the right to accept or reject the In-House QMS documentation as acceptable qualification for the 3 year permit. In the event of a rejection for a 3 year permit the LPGSASA shall have the option of issuing a 2 year permit if the documentation meets the requirements of that option (see below).

Where the supplier is able to prove external product surveillance is taking place on an ongoing basis by an authorised body e.g. Gastec, ITS, Afnor, BSI etc or a government body deemed acceptable to the LPGSASA, then the permit validity period shall be 3 years.

Where the supplier has been issued with a UL listing for the product in question the the permit validity period shall be 3 years

1.2 Two year permits

Where a local manufacturer is able to present a set of dimensioned engineering drawings of the appliance together with a Bill of Materials and a schedule of preferred suppliers, and the LPGSASA is able to examine the factory process, then the permit validity period shall be 2 years.

If during the validity period of this type of permit the manufacturer is able to provide documentary evidence of a full QMS as outlined 1.1 above then conversion of the permit to a 3 year type shall be possible either during the current period or at the end of the current period.

1.3 One year permits

Where none of the above is available then the permit validity period shall remain at 1 year and a re-test shall be required before the permit is re-issued for the further period.

If during the validity period of this type of permit, the supplier is able to meet the requirements of one of the options that will allow the issue of a permit for 2 years or 3 years then, subject to the provision of the required documentation, renewal shall be allowable without further retest.

2. Additional information

Permit fees are payable upon original issue as well as upon renewal of permits. Where a change of permit status takes place e.g. 1 year to 2 years or 2 years to 3 years then the permit fee is also payable.

3. Permit amendments

It is often found that during the life of a permit, manufacturers make model number changes. This is particularly the case with suppliers of hobs and stoves. In such cases permit holders are required to submit a schedule of new numbers matched to the original model numbers. An officer from the LPGSASA will physically verify that the products have not changed in any respect to the gas train or gas components. If that is the case then the permits will be changed to reflect the new number. The current validity period and review date will remain unchanged.

Permit fees will not be charged for this service. They will of course become payable at the next review or in cases where a new permit is issued to products changed necessitating a full or partial retest

Where in the opinion of the LPGSASA officer a full or partial test is required, the supplier will be advised to submit a sample to an accredited test house.

4. Date of introduction

The above validity periods came into effect on all new permits with effect from 01/05/06.

Ted Parrett
Safety Commissioner
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