

## Chapter - 1

### LPG

Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG), is an environment friendly fuel used widely in the household kitchens, industries and commercial establishments. This chapter restricts to LPG supplied under Public Distribution System for household cooking.

#### The Product 'LPG'

LPG stands for liquefied petroleum gases. The LPG marketed by us under the brand name 'Indane' conforms to Bureau of Indian Standards specification no. IS 4576. It can be easily liquefied at atmospheric temperature under moderate pressure. LPG in its pure form is colourless and odourless. However, compounds are added to give it a distinct smell so that if leaked, it can be easily detected.

#### LPG Installation

LPG is used in domestic household through an installation. A typical LPG installation consists of a cylinder, pressure regulator, LPG Hose and a gas stove. The equipments should conform to the following standards:

Sr.No.	Equipment	Standards
1	LPG Cylinder	IS 3196 (Part 1): 2006 and IS 3196 (Part 3)
2	Pressure Regulator	IS 9798 : 1995
3	Suraksha LPG Hose	IS 9573 : 1998
4	Gas Stove	IS 4246: 2002

LPG meant for household use is currently marketed by PSU Oil companies in cylinders of 14.2 Kg & 5 kg. capacities. For identification between household (PDS) & non-PDS, the household cylinders are painted in SIGNAL RED colour. Cylinders in Oxford Blue colour with a signal Red band carry non-subsidised LPG meant for use in commercial and Industrial establishments.

Tare/gross weight, test date, serial number, ISI monogram, Oil marketing company's name & logo, year of manufacture etc. are embossed / painted on the cylinder. Each Pressure Regulator (PR) also carries a serial number.

The liquid LPG vaporises at normal atmospheric pressure and temperature flows out of cylinder to the burner head of the gas stove in air-gas mixture, in a proportion that gets ignited when lit with a match-stick.

#### Public Distribution System for LPG Marketing in India

LPG meant for use as cooking fuel in household kitchens, marketed by the Public Sector Oil Companies, at a price declared or controlled by the Government of India.

The Govt of India has also extended benefit of LPG at PDS rates to non-domestic consumers in the following categories: -

- Government/ Municipal Hospitals for whatever purpose they take.
- Supplies to all school and colleges whether for hostels or for mid-day meal schemes.
- Canteens attached to Government Offices (Govt. includes State Govt. and local bodies and their installation and Guest Houses etc.)
- Messes of Police, BSF and CISF in addition to kitchens and messes of the Defence establishments.
- Canteens run on cooperative basis under Cooperative Societies Act.
- Laboratories attached to schools, colleges & research institutions.
- Charitable institutions registered under the Societies Act.
- Red Cross Society all branches.

**For commercial, Industrial & Automotive usage LPG is sold at non - subsidized price.**

## Distribution Network

PSU Oil Companies have a well spread network of distributors to service the LPG consumers in the country. Expansion of the distributor network is a continuous process. Currently, there are two types of distributor formats viz. Regular LPG distributorships & Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak (RGLV). Appointment of distributors is through public advertisements. Details of eligibility criteria and selection procedure are available on our [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com).

## Services

The services rendered by the distributors to the LPG consumers are given below:

1. Release of New LPG Connections & Additional Cylinder (Double Bottle Connection).
2. Facilities for booking LPG refill.
3. Refill Delivery - Two modes of cylinder delivery are in practice.
  - (a) LPG distributors deliver filled cylinders at the registered address to the customers residing in their normal area of operation and take back empty cylinders. Only under exceptional conditions, filled cylinders deliveries on cash-and-carry basis (non-home delivery) are permitted & customers are entitled to applicable rebate on "Cash-and-carry" supplies.
  - (b) RGLV- customers have to collect filled cylinders from the LPG storage godown at declared RSP. Customers are not entitled to any rebate for "Cash-and-carry" supplies.
4. Transferring/Terminating the LPG connection - when a customer shifts residence outside the distributor's area or service reasons.
5. Safe custody of LPG connection : Piped Natural Gas (PNG) customers, customers using LPG through 'Reticulated' system and customers who do not intend to use the cylinder for reasonably long time can hand over their LPG Cylinder/s & DPR to the distributor and obtain a safe custody voucher along with refund of the security amount.
6. Change of Name - in case of demise of the LPG connection holder.
7. Preferred Time Delivery: LPG Distributors offer a "Preferred Time LPG Delivery Scheme," to facilitate consumers especially working men and women to get delivery of LPG refill as per their convenience for a small premium.
8. **Time frame for services rendered by Indane distributors to the consumers:**

Services	Conditions	Timeframe (Subject to meeting Conditions)
Registration for new domestic LPG connection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Above 18 years of age</li><li>b) No member of the household has LPG connection under PDS</li><li>c) Residing in the distributor's area</li><li>d) Produce &amp; submit proof of residence &amp; identity #</li></ol>	Immediate
Release (installation) of new Connection /DBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Intimation in writing by the distributor of Maturity of turn</li><li>b) Produce &amp; submit proof of residence &amp; identity</li><li>c) Submit Standard undertaking#</li><li>d) Deposit security amount##</li><li>e) Hot plate inspection (purchased from source other than the LPG distributor) after payment of prescribed inspection charges##.</li></ol>	Seven working days

Services	Conditions	Timeframe (Subject to meeting Conditions)
Acceptance of refill booking	When no previous refill order is pending	Immediate
Delivery of refill	Availability of stocks*	Seven working days*
Leakage complaint	Intimation to distributor/emergency service cell	Immediate guidance at contact point.
Preparation of TV & refund security deposit	a) Surrender of loaned equipment (cylinder/s & PR) in good condition b) Submission of original SV (in case SV is lost an affidavit in lieu thereof)#	One working day
Change of name in case of death	a) Eligibility as applicable for new LPG connection b) Death Certificate of customer c) Standard undertaking#	One working day
<p>* Endeavour to deliver within seven working days at all times except in circumstances beyond control viz. Natural calamities, strikes, absenteeism, transport breakdowns, Govt. directives, shortage of product availability etc.</p> <p># formats of documents available on website <a href="http://www.indane.co.in">www.indane.co.in</a></p> <p>## Rates of approved security deposit, tariff &amp; service charges available at our website <a href="http://www.indane.co.in">www.indane.co.in</a></p>		

## Customer Relations

A Toll Free telephone number 1800 2333 555 is available to customers between 8 AM and 8 PM for any queries, suggestions or complaints related to their LPG connection.

Customer Service Cells are available at the Area Offices during office hours on all working days. Customers are welcome to call on telephone or personally visit the Cell for assistance/grievance redressal. Details of the Cell are available with the distributor and also at our [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) and [www.indane.co.in](http://www.indane.co.in)

Customers can also meet the Sales Officer during their periodic visits on pre-determined days to LPG distributorship for resolution of their queries/complaints.

## Emergency Service

Distributors render prompt assistance in case of gas leakage and other complaints. The telephone numbers are mentioned on the refill cash memos, displayed at the distributor's showroom and also available on the Oil Companies websites. **The Services rendered by the distributor for attending to leakage complaints are free of charge.**

## Expectations from the Customer

Users need to follow safe operating practices while using LPG. These are given below:

### Simple rules of usage

- Cylinder must be always kept in vertical position, away from any source of heat and in a ventilated place.
- The hot plate should always be placed on a platform (made of non-flammable material) above the cylinder level.
- Always remember to switch off the pressure regulator when the stove is not in use, especially at night. Never tamper with or try to repair the cylinder or allied equipment yourself.

- ❑ Make sure all parts of the installation are in good condition. If anything seems wrong with any part, call for the distributor's trained mechanic.
- ❑ It is safer to wear cotton clothing while working in the kitchen. Use of dupatta, sari or cloth to handle utensils could be a fire hazard.
- ❑ Wearing a fire retardant apron while cooking is a safe practice.
- ❑ Children must be kept away from the installation while cooking.
- ❑ Use only ISI marked HOT PLATES.
- ❑ Never leave the hotplate unattended while in use as the burner flame could get extinguished due to overflow of cooking material or even gust of wind. This would lead leakage of Gas from the burner. The accumulated gas could get ignited by the second/other burner in operation or any other source of ignition, resulting in fire.
- ❑ Fry Pan / Pressure Cooker should be placed in a manner so that their handle is away from the flame.
- ❑ Plastic items must be kept away from the gas stove.
- ❑ Rubber tube is the weakest link in a LPG connection. It must be regularly checked and changed immediately in case any visible cracks / damage are noticed. Use of "SURAKSHA" LPG hose sold by LPG distributor is recommended for its enhanced safety features and longer life. Rubber Tube, if used, must be ISI approved.
- ❑ As a rule, the rubber tube must be replaced every two years and 'Suraksha' LPG hose every five years.
- ❑ The safety cap must always be put on the valve of the unused cylinders, whether full or empty.

#### **At the time of Refill Delivery**

At the time of taking refill delivery, customer must satisfy himself with the condition of the cylinder seal and weight. Once having acknowledged receipt of cylinder with seal intact, correct weight & in good condition, there shall be no scope for dispute with regard to the same. The deliveryman will break open the seal in presence of the customer and check that the cylinder is sound and fit for use. Customers must get the cylinder connected to the regulator (DPR) and have the installation checked for proper functioning, even for the additional cylinder.

#### **Inspection of the LPG Installation**

Customers must insist on a mandatory inspection of their LPG installation once in 2 years, by the trained mechanic. This service is available on payment of the requisite charges approved by the Oil Company. This will help in safe up keep of the domestic LPG installation.

#### **In case of Leakage**

In the rare event of Leakage or in case there is smell of gas:

- ❑ Turn the pressure regulator (DPR) knob to the 'OFF' position.
- ❑ Put out all fires in the kitchen / vicinity (including agarbatti and pooja lamp etc).
- ❑ **Do Not** light matchstick/lighter. **Do Not** switch 'On' or switch 'Off' any electrical switches (including main switch). Remember that electrical switches and dry cell torches generate spark while switching on or off.
- ❑ Open all doors and windows for ventilation
- ❑ Get in touch with the distributor / the Emergency Service Cell after office hours and on Sundays and holidays.

#### **In the event of accident**

All registered LPG consumers are covered under an insurance policy taken by the PSU Oil Companies.

In case of the unfortunate event of an accident, the customer must immediately inform the distributor in writing. The distributor then informs the concerned Oil Company and the Insurance Company about the same. The distributor will offer assistance to the customer in completing the formalities of insurance claims arising out of the accident.

In addition to the above, all LPG distributors also have Third Party Liability Insurance cover losses in the event of an LPG accident.

## Customer Obligations

- ❑ Customers must abide by the terms and conditions under which the LPG connection has been released to them. These are printed on the reverse of Subscription Voucher and contained in the undertaking submitted at the time of release of the connection.
- ❑ Customer must adopt safe practices while using LPG.
- ❑ Customers must not accept LPG cylinders from source/persons other than the LPG distributor with whom they are registered.
- ❑ Customers are not permitted to exchange with others or loan to others, the cylinders / DPR given to them as this creates possibility for a spurious cylinder / DPR finding its way into the system. Spurious cylinders/DPRs do not conform to the stringent quality standards and are a potential safety hazard.
- ❑ Customers should follow conservation tips while using LPG to save fuel. Conservation tips are available on the [www.indane.co.in](http://www.indane.co.in)
- ❑ The use of LPG is regulated by LP Gas (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order of the Govt. of India. As per this order:  
*LPG connection is issued only in the name of any adult member of the household by a Government Oil company under the public distribution system. "Household" means a family consisting of husband, wife, unmarried children and dependent parents living together in a dwelling unit having common kitchen.*  
*An existing customer of domestic LPG connection of a Government Oil Company, who desires to avail PNG connection, has to surrender his domestic LPG connection within sixty days from the date of obtaining PNG connection.*
- ❑ Customers holding more than one LPG connection in a household kitchen, whether of the same oil company or of different oil companies, can retain only one connection. The additional connection/s if any must be surrendered to the distributor and refund of the deposit amount obtained.
- ❑ As & when customers avail Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connection or LPG connection through 'Reticulated' system in their household, the existing domestic LPG connection must be surrendered with the distributor. The distributor will issue 'TV' for 'Safe Custody' and refund of deposit amount. Details of the same is given in the [www.indane.co.in](http://www.indane.co.in)