

Agenda item 2 (a)

EUROPEAN
LPG
ASSOCIATION



UN/SCETDG/18/INF.37

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Informal document on :

**“Risk Assessment on the Use of
Pressure Relief Devices (PRD’s) on
LPG Cylinders”**

The European LPG Industry fits PRDs in some countries and not in others and considers both practices to be safe. There are good arguments in favour and against the fitting of PRD’s on LPG cylinders that lead us to support keeping the status-quo on this matter at the moment.

Among the different possible PRD’s, only pressure relief valves are used in the LPG Industry.

Countries where PRD’s are used rightly point out that PRD’s may be useful in case of overfilling and fire engulfment preventing cylinder failure, delaying the rupture of the cylinder in case of fire or reducing the energy released when the cylinder ruptures.

Countries where PRD’s are not mandatory point out that the use of PRD’s cannot avoid, with a 100% probability, the cylinder bursting when subjected to one the causes of catastrophic failure (overfilling, overheating or fire engulfment) and even in some cases can lead to more hazardous situations because of the release of flammable products in the open air with a possible domino chain reaction involving the other cylinders (in the case of transportation or storage, for example).

The balance of these above arguments in favour and against PRD’s leads us to recommend that :

The fitting of PRD’s should not be mandatory on LPG cylinders.

LPG cylinders with or without PRD’s should be used globally unless they fail to comply with the requirements of the UN model regulations.
