Is the set-up of your caravan or campervan unsafe? Is your gas appliance flue being compromised?

THE ISSUE

If you have fitted an annexe or awning to your recreational vehicle (RV), you may have compromised the ventilation flue for your gas appliances. The flue must vent into the outdoors. A fully enclosed annexe around your flue will create an unventilated space.

Gas appliances are a potential source of carbon monoxide poisoning. Faulty or incorrectly flued appliances can rapidly increase the carbon monoxide concentration in RVs and their annexes to dangerous levels.

Carbon-monoxide is an odourless and highly toxic gas and there have been a number of deaths in Australia caused by gas appliances being used in inadequately ventilated areas.

If a flue terminal ends indoors, such as inside an annexe, it creates an added risk of an excessive build-up of carbon monoxide.

This typical three sided annex shown below is at potential risk of causing the unsafe ventilation of gas appliances.
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO

It is still safe to use an annexe or awning as long as the following rules are followed:

- If you are using an annexe and the vent will be covered by that annexe, then the area must be opened on two sides to allow a free flow of air across the vent; or

- If the flue is fan-assisted, it is acceptable to have an open area on one side only, as long as the vent is within 500mm of the opening and the direction of gas discharge is towards the open side.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information contact the Gas Standards and Safety team at Building Standards and Occupational Licensing

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