

Gas Standards and Safety

Fact Sheet

November 2014 (FS132) Version 1.0

BADLY VENTILATED GAS FLUES CREATE CRITICAL SAFETY CONCERNS FOR RV USERS

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.





Refrigerator flue terminal on an RV



Water heater flue terminal on an RV

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

Phone: (in Tasmania) 1300 366 322 | Phone: (outside Tasmania) (03) 6166 4600

Fax: (03) 6173 0205

Email: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au

Address: PO Box 56, Rosny Park TAS 7018

This document has been produced and published by the Building Standards and Occupational Licensing Division of the Department of Justice. Although every care has been taken in the production of the work, no responsibility is accepted for the accuracy, completeness, or relevance to the user's purpose, of the information. Those using it for whatever purpose are advised to verify it with the relevant government department, local government body or other source and to obtain any appropriate professional advice. The Crown, its officers, employees and agents do not accept liability however arising, including liability for negligence, for any loss resulting from the use of or reliance upon the information and/or reliance on its availability at any time.