



November 2010

Carbon Monoxide: Landlords reminded of legal obligation

Landlords are being reminded of their legal obligation to ensure tenants' safety as Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week is launched today (15 November).

The not-for-profit Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) says landlords must be aware of the need to carry out safety checks on heating appliances with a Gas Safe registered engineer.

"Around 20 people die every year in the UK* from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by badly installed, maintained or ventilated gas appliances," said APIL chief executive Denise Kitchener.

"CO is a lethal odourless and colourless gas which can seep into a person's home completely undetected. It is emitted by appliances which burn fossil fuels such as gas, wood or oil.

"Those who don't die from CO poisoning can suffer serious injury, including paralysis and brain damage.

"Landlords must remember that they have a legal duty to ensure that all work carried out on gas appliances is by a Gas Safe registered engineer."

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, persistent cold-like symptoms, consistent tiredness, nausea, dizziness and chest pain.

The Gas Safe register replaced the CORGI gas register in Great Britain and the Isle of Man on April 1 2009.

-Ends-

*Figures from the Health and Safety Executive show about 20 people die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning



Notes to editors:

- Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week will be launched on Monday 15 November in the House of Lords. Visit www.covictim.org for more information
- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) is a not-for-profit organisation whose members are dedicated to campaigning for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own. APIL also provides an industry recognised kitemark to lawyers who reach a required standard of competence and specialist expertise in personal injury law.
- For more information, please contact Chris Birkle, press and communications officer, t: 0115 938 8715, e: chris.birkle@apil.org.uk, or Jane Hartwell, assistant press and communications officer, t: 0115 938 8702, e: jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk.
- Visit APIL's website at www.apil.org.uk.