

Information Bulletin No. IB13-005

May 14, 2013

ASME B31.3 Pressure Testing Components in a Piping System

Requirements

In conjunction with the ASME B31.3 interpretations (see Background information below), this is to provide further clarification on responsibility for ensuring ASME B31.3 Code compliance for pressure testing of individual components prior to installation in a pressure piping system to be used in Alberta.

In accordance with Paragraph 300(b)(1) of the ASME B31.3 Code, the owner "...shall have overall responsibility for compliance with this Code, and for establishing the requirements for design, construction, examination, and testing...". Accordingly, the owner is responsible for the assessment on whether previous pressure testing of components is in compliance with the requirements of ASME B31.3 paragraph 345.2.2, and that such testing meets the requirements for the fluid service for which the components will be used.

The duty to verify if the components meet the owner's requirements and comply with the ASME B31.3 should be assigned to the owner's inspector.

This same responsibility also applies to components being used as replacements parts of an existing piping system.

Background

ASME B31.3 Process Piping Code Standards Committee has issued interpretations on Paragraphs 345.2.3(b) and 345 on April 15, 2013 and April 12, 2011 respectively (see Background Information hereunder)

The ABSA Pressure News dated March 2012 (<http://www.absa.ca/newsletter/2012-v17-iss1.pdf>) also contained an article regarding the requirements for pressure testing components fabricated to a standard, which form part of an ASME B31.3 piping system.

The ASME B31.3 Code Interpretations:

Interpretation 24-20

Subject: B31.3-2010, Interpretation of Para. 345.2.3(b) Flanged Joints
Date Issued: April 15, 2013
File: 13-620

Question 1:

In accordance with ASME B31.3 – 2010, do components listed in Table 326.1, need to be leak tested in accordance with Para. 345?

Reply 1:

We believe your question can be answered by previous interpretation 23-14.

Question 2:

Does the phrase "previously been tested" in paragraph 345.2.3(b) refer to leak testing in accordance with the requirements of ASME B31.3?

Reply 2:

Yes.

Interpretation 23-14

Subject: ASME B31.3-2008, Para. 345, Leak Testing of Piping Components

Date Issued: April 12, 2011

File: 11-17

Question:

Does ASME B31.3-2008 require listed piping components, including valves, to be leak tested in accordance with para. 345?

Reply:

No. See para. 326.3.

<original signed by>

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