

Interpretation: 4-1

Subject: ANSI B30.4-1981

Date Issued: September 7, 1988

Question (1): What tolerances would qualify as "smooth" per para. 4-1.3.1(a)?

Reply (1): The separate volumes that make up the B30 Standard are not design volumes. Further, the scope of B30.4 includes machines with great variation in characteristics, such as wheel loads, travel speeds, and severity of service, as well as gross differences in configuration.

The smoothness of a rail splice is relative depending on parameters such as wheel load, wheel diameter, and travel speed. The loads induced in the crane and rail due to gaps, steps, or offsets at splices may also vary in significance based on severity of service. These are all design considerations specific to individual cranes; they cannot be addressed in B30.4. Quantifying tolerances for the rail installation is a matter for the crane manufacturer.

Question (2): What rail displacement tolerance is intended by the terms "securely attached" and "resist both horizontal and vertical loads" in para. 4-1.3.1(d)?

Reply (2): The separate volumes that make up the B30 Standard are not design volumes. Further, the scope of B30.4 includes machines with great variation in characteristics such as wheel loads, travel speeds, and severity of service, as well as gross differences in configuration.

Rail attachments must hold the rail in place while resisting crane loads and transmitting them to underlying supports; they may have to accommodate expansion or contraction at the same time. Any movement that could occur at the attachments must be considered together with actual rail position at that point, and compared with tolerances established by the crane manufacturer that limit variations from alignment or displacements from theoretical rail position.

Interpretation: 4-2

Subject: ASME B30.4-1990, Portal, Tower, and Pillar Cranes

Date Issued: June 20, 1995

Question (1): What is the definition of "recommended configuration" as used in para. 4-1.2.5?

Reply (1): "Recommended configuration" is the condition and positioning of the crane and/or boom, for any specified load or condition as recommended by the manufacturer.

Question (2): Who establishes the recommended configurations cited in para. 4-1.2.5?

Reply (2): The manufacturer.

Interpretation: 4-3

Subject: ASME B30.4-1996, Portal, Tower, and Pedestal Cranes

Date Issued: May 23, 2000

Question: Can an "other positive locking device" consist of a "drum and/or disc-type braking system on the drum side of the hoist that is designed in a manner to activate during a power failure or at shutdown of the crane and is designed to be used in conjunction with additional braking methods that are directly linked to the shaft/motor side of the hoist?"

Reply: No.

Interpretation: 4-4

Subject: ASME B30.4-1996, Portal, Tower, and Pedestal Cranes

Date Issued: January 28, 2002

Question: Section 4-0.1 of B30.4 states that, "telescopic boom cranes and kunckle boom cranes are not within the scope of this volume". Is B30.4 applicable to pedestal cranes that have telescoping booms?

Reply: The Portal Tower, and Pedestal Cranes Volume is not applicable to your situation.

Although pedestal mounted, the type of crane you are using for handling large diameter hoses may be more similar to those addressed by the B30.5 Volume on Mobile and Locomotive Cranes with one exception: the Operating Practices of both B30.4 and B30.5 require that, "side loading of booms shall be limited to freely suspended loads. Cranes should not be used for dragging loads." If the hoses being handled are not freely suspended, the B30 Volumes would also not be applicable to your situation.