It has been agreed to publish interpretations issued by the B31 Committee concerning B31.8 as part of the update service. This supplement includes interpretations concerning B31.8 issued between January 1, 1986, and December 31, 1986. They have been assigned interpretation numbers in chronological order. Each interpretation applies to the latest Edition or Addenda at the time of issuance of the interpretation or the Edition or Addenda stated in the reply. Subsequent revisions to the Code may have superseded the reply. The interpretations are not part of the Code or the Addenda.

These replies are taken verbatim from the original letters, except for a few typographical and editorial corrections made for the purpose of improved clarity.

ASME procedures provide for reconsideration of these interpretations when or if additional information is available which the inquirer believes might affect the interpretation. Further, persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the cognizant ASME committee or subcommittee. As stated in the Statement of Policy in the Code documents, ASME does not “approve,” “certify,” “rate,” or “endorse” any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity.

ANSI/ASME B31.8
Interpretations No. 4
Interpretation: 4-1

Subject: Flexibility Factor and Stress Intensification Factor Tables

Date Issued: October 17, 1986

File: B31-85-030

Question (1): What is the difference between a “welding tee per ANSI B16.9” and an “extruded welding tee” as stated in Appendix D, Table D-1, of ANSI/ASME B31.3 and Appendix E, Table E-1, of ANSI/ASME B31.8?

Reply (1): A “welding tee per ANSI B16.9” complies with all requirements of ANSI B16.9. An “extruded welding tee” complies with the requirements of 304.3 of ANSI/ASME B31.3 or 831.41 and 831.6 of ANSI/ASME B31.8.

Question (2): Is the difference related to ANSI B16.9 dimensions as defined by ANSI/ASME B31.3 and ANSI/ASME B31.8?

Reply (2): No.

Question (3): Is the difference related to manufacturing?

Reply (3): ANSI B16.9 does not specify manufacturing methods.

Question (4): When a “welding tee per ANSI B16.9” does not meet the radius and thickness limits specified in Appendix D, Table D-1, of ANSI/ASME B31.3 or Appendix E, Table E-1, of ANSI/ASME B31.8, is it permissible to use the flexibility characteristic h for an “extruded welding tee” provided $r_x \geq D_b$ and $T_c < 1.5T$?

Reply (4): Yes, provided the tee is formed by an extrusion process; otherwise it is the responsibility of the designer to determine the proper flexibility characteristic.
Interpretation: 4-2

Subject: 826.2, NDE of Gas Compression Equipment

Date Issued: December 1, 1986

File: B31-85-023

Question (1): According to 826.2, what percentage of the butt welds in new packaged gas equipment shall be examined for use in Class 3 locations?

Reply (1): 100% if practical, but no less than 90% [see 826.2(b)(5)].

Question (2): If a gas compression package is designed and tested for use in a Class 3 location and is later relocated to a compressor station, what additional requirements apply?

Reply (2): None.

Question (3): A new section of piping is added to existing gas compression equipment. What percentage of the new welding is required to be examined?

Reply (3): See Reply (1).

Question (4): If new piping is added to existing gas compression equipment, is it required that any of the existing welding be examined?

Reply (4): No, if it met the conditions of 826.2(b)(5).