Contact ASME B31.3 Committee - Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions:
1) Are ASME standards mandatory?
ASME Standards are considered voluntary because they serve as guidelines, but do not themselves have the force of law. ASME cannot force any manufacturer, inspector, or installer to follow ASME standards. Their use is voluntary. Standards become mandatory when they have been incorporated into a business contract or incorporated into regulations.

2) Does ASME enforce the adoption of the B31.3 Code?
No, each state decides independently the regulation or codes required within their jurisdictions and requirements may vary by state. Also, within the United States there are additional jurisdictional authorities besides each state that may have requirements that need to be complied with. Some states are broken down into counties, cities, towns etc. Note, while there are 50 states, it is estimated that there are over 300 jurisdictions in the US and over 90% of these jurisdictions have adopted the B31.3 Code. Those that have not adopted the B31.3 Code, typically have no regulations covering process piping and/or enforcement body for piping Codes.

3) Does ASME certify or accredit any B31.3 Products?
No. We do not provide any certification or accreditation of B31.3 Products.

4) How do I purchase current editions of B31.3 documents?
ASME publications may be purchased through our call center at 1-800-843-2763 or the ASME website: https://www.asme.org/shop/standards

5) How do I obtain older editions of B31.3 documents?
ASME does not maintain out-of-print standards once it is superseded by a more recent edition. High-quality reproductions of out-of-print (historical) codes and standards are also available from IHS Standards Store (1-800-854-7179 or International +1-877-413-5184).

6) How do I find past interpretation or submit new interpretation on Standards?
Past ASME interpretations can be searched on the ASME website at go.asme.org/inquiry. To submit a request for a new interpretation be sure to follow the instructions at the following: https://cstools.asme.org/Interpretation/InterpretationForm.cfm

Please be advised that requests for interpretation must be limited to an interpretation of a particular requirement in the Standard. ASME does not "approve," "certify," "rate," or "endorse" any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity. Additionally, the committees cannot consider consulting type questions.

7) How do I submit a request for revision?
The Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to the Code. Revisions are made periodically to the Code to incorporate changes which appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by the experience gained from the application of the procedures, and in order to conform to developments in the elevator art. Such proposals should be as specific as possible. Proposal should include the following:
- the requirements (e.g. Rule) number(s);
- the proposed wording; and
a detailed description of the reasons for the proposal including any pertinent documentation.

Correspondence should be addressed to:
Secretary of Standards Committee
ASME
Two Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Or may be submitted via e-mail to customercare@asme.org

8) Request for Case?
Cases permit the use of alternative rules concerning materials, construction, or in-service inspection activities or to permit early implementation of an approved revision. Check the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code page for information on requesting BPVC cases and approved BPVC cases. (Refer to the standard in question for further information).

9) How do I submit a request for a new standards development?
Requests to develop new ASME standards are evaluated in accordance with ASME Codes & Standards Policy (CSP) 49, Guide for Establishing New Codes or Standards Projects. To request formal evaluation of a proposal for a new ASME standards development activity, download and complete the checklist (Word or PDF) and email it to:

Claire Ramspeck
Managing Director, Standards
B31.3 Standard Specific Questions:

10) What is the Scope of the ASME B31.3 Process Piping Code?
Rules for the Process Piping Code Section B31.3 have been developed considering piping typically found in petroleum refineries; chemical, pharmaceutical, textile, paper, semiconductor, and cryogenic plants; and related processing plants and terminals.

This Code prescribes requirements for materials and components, design, fabrication, assembly, erection, examination, inspection, and testing of piping. This Code applies to piping for all fluids, including
1) raw, intermediate, and finished chemicals
2) petroleum products
3) gas, steam, air, and water
4) fluidized solids
5) refrigerants
6) cryogenic fluids

11) Are there any exclusions for the B31.3 Code?
Yes. This Code excludes the following:
(a) piping systems designed for internal gage pressures at or above zero but less than 105 kPa (15 psi), provided the fluid handled is nonflammable, nontoxic, and not damaging to human tissues, and its design temperature is from −29°C (−20°F) through 186°C (366°F)
(b) power boilers in accordance with BPV Code Section I and boiler external piping that is required to conform to B31.1
(c) tubes, tube headers, crossovers, and manifolds of fired heaters that are internal to the heater enclosure
(d) pressure vessels, heat exchangers, pumps, compressors, and other fluid handling or processing equipment, including internal piping and connections for external piping

ASME B31.3 is the Code for Process Piping and contains the actual requirements that are to be followed. The Process Piping: The Complete Guide to ASME B31.3 does not contain the actual Code requirements. The commentary in the Guide is simply the author’s opinion for major requirements of the Code to provide clarification to the user. The Guide does not necessarily reflect the official position of ASME, the B31.3 Section Committee, or the B31 Standards Committee.