

Standards and Certification Training

Module B - Process

B11. Standards Inquiries, Interpretations and Cases



Updates

9/13/2024	Updated to align to Rev. 19 of Operating Procedures for ASME Codes and Standards Development Committees
12/7/2015	Revised slides 3-7, 9 and 16. Added Slides 8, 14 and 17-19
3/14/2014	First Edition



Module B Course Outline

- **B1. ASME Organizational Structure**
- B2. Standards Development: Staff and Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
- B3. Conformity Assessment: Staff and Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities
- B4. Initiating and Terminating Standards Projects
- B5. Consensus Process for Standards Development B5a. Project Management
- B6. The Basics of Parliamentary Procedure
- B7. The Appeals Process
- B8. International Standards Development
- B9. ASME Conformity Assessment Programs
- B10.Performance Based Standards



B11. Standards Inquiries, Interpretations and Cases



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this module you will be able to understand:

- What is an Interpretation
- How to submit an inquiry or request for Interpretation online
- The approval process for an Interpretation
- How to search for approved Interpretations online
- What a case is and why they are used
- The approval process for a Case



COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY

- Inquiries can be submitted by anyone.
- The avenues in which a Committee may address an inquiry:
 - Informal Responses
 - Requests for Revision
 - Interpretations
 - Cases



INTERPRETATION REQUESTS TO ASME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

- How to Submit a Request for Interpretation:
 - Online using the Inquiry Submittal Form at...

http://cstools.asme.org/Interpretation/InterpretationForm.cfm



INTERPRETATION SUBMITTAL FORM 1/3

1. Inquirer Information Sample Inquiry Submittals					
First Name: *	Start typing	Last Name: *	Start typing		
Company/Organization:	Start typing				
Address 1: *	Start typing				
Address 2:	Start typing				
Address 3:	Start typing				
Country: *	United States 🗸	State: *	~		
Town/City: *	Start typing	Zip/Postal Code: *	Start typing		
Phone:*	Start typing	Fax:*	Start typing		
Email:*	Start typing	Confirm Email:*	Start typing		



* Denotes required field

INTERPRETATION SUBMITTAL FORM 2/3

2. Request for Interpretation

Standard Designation:*

NOTE: To select standard designation, highlight the standard designation and use the double arrow button on the right to move selection over to the "Standard Designation Selected" field. If your question(s) applies(y) to more then one standard, select the most appropriate standard and reference any others in your inquiry.

Edition/Addenda:*

Paragraph/Fig./Table No:*

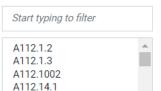
Enter reg. number

Subject:

Enter brief (1 or 2 word) description

Inquiry(ies):*

Please provide a condensed and precise question, omitting superfluous background information and composed in such a way that a 'yes' or a 'no' reply is acceptable. Please cite the specific paragraph number in your questions(s). Question may be subject to modification for clarification.



A112.14.3

Start typing



*Interpretations are <u>NOT</u> issued for the following ASME Standards

A112.18.6	<u>^</u>
A112.19.8M	
A112.20.1	
A112.20.2	
A112.20.3	
A 4 4 0 0 4 0 A 4	

Download Editing Formula Guide

Note: When entering an equation, place the cursor where you would like to add the formulas. When typing your formulas, they will be displayed as codes but will populate and display correctly when you <u>click</u> on the preview box on the right. Also note, when entering hard returns, you may see the line starting with "< br >". Proceed in adding text and formulas as this is part of the coding. All coding will convert and be displayed correctly in the preview box to the right.

- /	

Preview of Inquiry(ies)

(Click on the preview box below to display your text and formulas)



INTERPRETATION SUBMITTAL FORM 2/3

Proposed Reply(ies):

Replies should be in the form of a Yes or No answer with explanation as needed. If entering replies to more than one question, please be sure to number your questions and replies.

Download Editing Formula Guide

Note: When entering an equation, place the cursor where you would like to add the formulas. When typing your formulas, they will be displayed as codes but will populate and display correctly when you <u>click</u> on the preview box on the right. Also note, when entering hard returns, you may see the line starting with "< br >". Proceed in adding text and formulas as this is part of the coding. All coding will convert and be displayed correctly in the preview box to the right.





Preview of Proposed Reply(ies)

(Click on the preview box below to display your text and formulas)

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	1

Background Info:

D

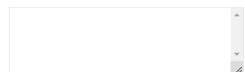
Please provide the committee with any background information that will assist the committee in understanding the inquiry.

Download Editing Formula Guide

Note: When entering an equation, place the cursor where you would like to add the formulas. When typing your formulas, they will be displayed as codes but will populate and display correctly when you <u>click</u> on the preview box on the right. Also note, when entering hard returns, you may see the line starting with "< br >". Proceed in adding text and formulas as this is part of the coding. All coding will convert and be displayed correctly in the preview box to the right.

Preview of Background Info

(Click on the preview box below to display your text and formulas)





INTERPRETATION SUBMITTAL FORM 3/3

Before Submitting an Inquiry

1. <u>Search Published Interpretations</u> - has your question been answered before? Search the ASME Interpretation Database here by clicking on Search Interpretation or our Quick Search:	using
Inquiry Subject: Search	
☐ I have searched if my question has already been answered. *	
2. <u>Consultation</u> - Consider contacting a subject matter expert. There are many organizations that can be contacted for advice on the topic such as Authorized Inspect Agencies, Notified Bodies and engineering consulting firms.	ion
3. Consulting Policy - ASME will only issue interpretations of official ASME codes or standards. Translation, derivative works, or products not created in their entirety by ASME will not be addressed. ASME interpretations apply only to official ASME codes or standards. The scope of an inquiry must be limited to particular requirement in Standard or Code Case. ASME does not "approve," "certify," "rate," or "endorse" any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity. Additionally, the committees cannot consider consulting type questions such as the following:	n the
1) a review of calculations, design drawings, welding qualifications, or descriptions of equipment or parts to determine compliance with the Code or Standard requirements;	
2) a request for assistance in performing any Code-prescribed functions related to, but not limited to, material selection, designs, calculations, fabrication, inspectesting, or installation;	tion,
3) a request seeking the rationale for a requirement in the Standard since these are based upon consideration of technical data and the experience and expertise individual committee members.	of the
4) a request seeking confirmation where the committee believes the existing words and intent are clear and explicit.	
☐ I have acknowledge and read the Consulting Policy. *	
4. Inquiry Format - Please note that ASME has a required format for inquiries. You can review sample inquiry submittals here: Sample Inquiry Submittals	
☐ I have reviewed sample inquiry submittals and understand that my inquiry can be rejected if it does not conform to the required format.*	
5. <u>Explanation of the process</u> - Inquiries are processed as follows:	
 Questions & replies for inquiry submittals that meet the requirements for submittal are processed by the associated committee. Inquiries are reviewed by the committee and proceed to a series of ballots. Once approved, the interpretation is issued. Depending on committee workload and meeting schedule, the evaluation, approval and issuance of an interpretation may take in excess of 6 months. Whether or not an interpretation is issued, ASME will respond to your request when the action is complete. Inquirers can check the status of their inquiry by contacting ASME Staff. 	
☐ I have read the interpretation process.*	
***If your inquiry does not meet the requirements for submittal as stated above, it may not be accepted by the committee for review.	



INTERPRETATIONS SUBMITTED TO ASME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

- Staff Secretary reviews the inquiry request.
- Staff Secretary may contact inquirer if additional information is needed or the question needs to be reformatted.
- Staff Secretary notifies the standards committee officers of the inquiry, if it requires further standards committee action.
- The Chair assigns the inquiry to a group or the whole committee for further review.



TYPES OF INTERPRETATIONS

1) Interpretation

 Clarifies existing requirements where there is ambiguous wording in the standard.

2) Intent Interpretation

- To resolve conflicting or incorrect wording in the standard.
- Revision to the standard supporting the interpretation approved before the interpretation may be issued.
- Shall not revise existing requirements or establish new requirements



INTERPRETATION APPROVAL

- Approval Options:
 - Consensus Committee
 - Cognizant Subcommittee
 - A Special Committee
- Balance Requirement



INTERPRETATION APPROVAL PROCESS CONSENSUS COMMITTEE or SUBCOMMITTEE

Vote Options:

Objection, No Objection, Not Voting

Meeting Vote

 No objection by two thirds of those present needed for approval, if quorum is present provided greater than 50% of the total consensus body has voted no objection.

Ballot Vote

- First Consideration Ballot no objections, no additional revisions. No objection by 2/3 of the voting members, provided greater than 50% of the total consensus body has voted no objection
- Recirculation Ballot no objection by 2/3 of the voting members, provided greater than 50% of the total consensus body has voted no objection.



INTERPRETATION APPROVAL PROCESS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

- Minimum 5 members, including Staff Secretary
- Must be members of the Consensus Committee and/or a subordinate group, with no member interest category having a majority.
- Appointed by Chair of Standards Committee or Cognizant Subcommittee
- Voting Options: Objection, No Objection, and Not Voting.
- All members including Staff Secretary must vote no objection for interpretation to be approved.
- Unresolvable objections should be referred to the consensus committee or Cognizant Subcommittee.



INTERPRETATION GUIDANCE

Interpretations should...

- Be written in such a way that a 'yes' or a 'no' reply is acceptable.
- If the initial request is not written in this format, the Staff Secretary can go back to the inquirer and ask for them to revise their questions.
- The committee can rewrite the inquirer's question if it helps to clarify the question and aids in the committee's ability to provide a 'yes' or 'no' response.



INTERPRETATION GUIDANCE

Interpretations shall NOT...

- Include explanations describing why the standard is written the way it is, except they may include rationale, if it was approved through the consensus process as part of the standards action.
- Approve, certify, rate or endorse any item, construction, proprietary device or activity.
- Restate requirements in such a way that opens the door to further confusion.
- State or imply something that cannot be supported by the published standard requirements. Exception: intent interpretations with an approved revision.
- Provide consulting advice.
- ASME shall not issue interpretations of translations, derivative works, or other products not created in their entirety by ASME.

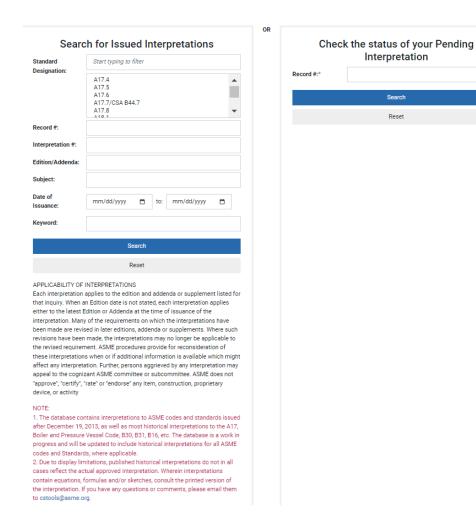


ISSUED INTERPRETATIONS

- Interpretations are issued on ASME letterhead and signed by ASME Staff. The interpretation letter:
 - Provides the question, committee reply, and the Code/Standard applicability.
 - Informs the reader of their right to appeal if they are not satisfied with the committee's response.
- Issued interpretations are accessible via database on C&S Connect at:
 - http://cstools.asme.org/Interpretation/SearchInterpretation.cfm
- Existing interpretations may be revised if there is an identified need, such as correction or clarification.
- All future interpretations will only be published online.



INTERPRETATION SEARCH FORM 1/3





INTERPRETATION SEARCH FORM 2/3

Search Results: 503 Record(s) Found Reset Selection Select All Show 10 ∨ entries Search: PARA FIG DATE OF SELECT INTERPRETATION TO BE STANDARD RECORD# INTERPRETATION# **EDITION** SUBJECT TABLE# ISSUANCE DISPLAYED B31.1 1-17 Size Limitations for Couplings in paragraph 08/18/80 104.3.1. B31.1 1-16 Paragraph 136.4.2; Visual Examination 07/28/80 B31.1 1-15 Paragraph 123.2.8; Nonmetallic Pipe 07/28/80 B31.1 1-14 Paragraph 104.3.1 (D.2.2); Reinforcement 07/22/80 Area in Branch Connections B31.1 1-13 Welds Connecting Systems Covered by 07/08/80 Different Codes Rules for Soldered and Brazed Joints B31.1 06/17/80 1-12 B31.1 Table 132: Postweld Heat Treatment 06/17/80 1-11 B31.1 Paragraph 127.6; Qualification Records 05/19/80 1-10 B31.1 1-9 Materials for Use in Compression Type 05/19/80 Fittings of Proprietary Design B31.1 1-8 Table 136.4; Mandatory Minimum 05/06/80 Nondestructive Examinations Previous 2 3 4 5 ... 51 Next Showing 1 to 10 of 503 entries



Display Selected Interpretations

INTERPRETATION SEARCH FORM 3/3

Interpretation Detail

Print to PDF

Standard
Designation:

B31.1

Edition/Addenda:

Para./Fig./Table No:

Subject Description: Size Limitations for Couplings in paragraph 104.3.1.

Date Issued: 08/18/1980

Record Number:

Interpretation Number : 1-17

Question(s) and Reply(ies):

Question (a) Does paragraph 104.3.1(C.2) of B31.1 prohibit the use of 2 1/2 in. and 3 in. couplings? (b) Does paragraph 104.3.1(C.2) prohibit constructions not in accordance with the 1/4 diameter rule (such as NPS 3/4 and NPS 1 couplings installed on a 2 in. header pipe) when supporting calculations in accordance with paragraph 104.3.1(D) or 104.3.1(E) indicate that sufficient (reinforcement) material has been provided?

Reply: It is the opinion of the Committee that the size limitation for couplings used as branch connections is adequately stated in paragraph 104.3.1(B.2), which limits their size to NPS 3. Constructions using couplings or half couplings as branch connections which are larger than NPS 2 (not to exceed NPS 3 per above), and not within the 1/4 diameter rule, are required to meet the reinforcement requirements of paragraph 104.3.1(D) or 104.3.2(E).



CASES

- To permit early implementation of a revision based on an urgent need.
- Providing alternative requirements.
- To gain experience with alternative or potential additional requirements prior to incorporation directly into the standard.
- To permit the use of a new material or process.
- Are intended to be incorporated into the standard at a later date.



CASES

Characteristics

- "Inquiry and reply" format
- Conditions of use clearly stated
- Approval by
 - Consensus Committee
 - Supervisory Board
 - Not ANSI Approved
- Effective after Supervisory Board approval and completion of ASME public review
- Not automatically included in standards requirements
- Conformity Assessment Department must be notified



CASES

Caution

Should not be used by standard users unless accepted by purchasers and/or authorities in jurisdiction where component will be installed.



MODULE SUMMARY

- The method of submitting an inquiry is online at... http://cstools.asme.org/Interpretation/InterpretationForm.cfm
- Interpretations clarify or correct ambiguous wording in the standard.
- Intent Interpretations clarify or correct conflicting and incorrect wording in the standard but results in a revision to the standard.



MODULE SUMMARY

- Interpretations are approved by the Consensus Committee, Cognizant Subcommittee or Special Committee.
- Cases are used to provide alternatives to existing requirements, or to allow early and urgent implementation of a revised requirement.
- Cases require Consensus Committee and Supervisory Board approval, but do not require ANSI approval.



REFERENCES

- Standards and Certification Operations Guide http://cstools.asme.org/csconnect/pdf/CommitteeFiles/2 3216.pdf
- Standards Committee Procedures, Supervisory Board Procedures and Committee Handbooks
 - http://cstools.asme.org/csconnect/CommitteePages.cfm ?Committee=A01000000&Action=7609
- Codes and Standards Policy 33 (Interpretations)
 http://cstools.asme.org/csconnect/CommitteePages.cfm

 ?Committee=A01000000&Action=7609

