

ASME B31.12-2008

Hydrogen Piping and Pipelines

ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD



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Mechanical Engineers**



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CONTENTS

Foreword		ix
Committee Personnel		x
PART GR	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	
Chapter GR-1	Scope and Definitions	
GR-1.1	Scope	1
GR-1.2	Responsibilities	1
GR-1.3	Intent of the Code	2
GR-1.4	Packaged Equipment Requirements	2
GR-1.5	Terms and Definitions	2
GR-1.6	B31.12 Appendices	11
GR-1.7	Nomenclature	11
Chapter GR-2	Materials	
GR-2.1	General Requirements	12
GR-2.2	Joining and Auxiliary Materials	26
Chapter GR-3	Welding, Brazing, Heat Treating, Forming, and Testing	
GR-3.1	General	27
GR-3.2	Welding and Brazing	27
GR-3.3	Welding and Brazing Materials	30
GR-3.4	Construction of Weldments	30
GR-3.5	Preheating for Weldments	43
GR-3.6	Heat Treatment	43
GR-3.7	Specific and Alternative Heat Treat Requirements	46
GR-3.8	Construction of Brazements	46
GR-3.9	Forming of Pipe Components	48
GR-3.10	Testing	49
Chapter GR-4	Inspection, Examination, and Testing	
GR-4.1	General	50
GR-4.2	Inspection	50
GR-4.3	Examination	50
GR-4.4	Personnel Qualification and Certification	51
GR-4.5	Extent of Required Examination and Testing	52
GR-4.6	Acceptance Criteria	52
GR-4.7	Supplementary Examination	52
GR-4.8	Examinations to Resolve Uncertainty	52
GR-4.9	Defective Components and Workmanship	52
GR-4.10	Testing	52
GR-4.11	Records	52
GR-4.12	NDE Definitions	52
Chapter GR-5	Operation and Maintenance	
GR-5.1	General	53
GR-5.2	Operation Maintenance Plan	53
GR-5.3	Maintenance Requirements	55
GR-5.4	Leakage Surveys	57
GR-5.5	Repair Procedures	57
GR-5.6	Injurious Dents and Mechanical Damage	57
GR-5.7	Permanent Repair of Welds With Defects	59
GR-5.8	Permanent Field Repair of Leaks and Nonleaking Corroded Areas	59



GR-5.9	Permanent Field Repair of Hydrogen Stress Cracking in Hard Spots and Stress Corrosion Cracking	59
GR-5.10	Testing and Examination of Repairs	59
GR-5.11	Valve Maintenance	59
GR-5.12	Transmission Pipeline Maintenance	60
GR-5.13	Abandoning of Transmission Facilities	61
GR-5.14	Decommissioning of Transmission Facilities	61
GR-5.15	Recommissioning of Transmission Facilities	61
GR-5.16	Repositioning a Pipeline in Service	61
GR-5.17	Testing for Integrity Assessment of In-Service Pipelines	62
GR-5.18	Distribution Pipeline Maintenance	63
GR-5.19	Leakage Surveys	63
GR-5.20	Leakage Investigation and Action	63
GR-5.21	Repair, Testing, and Examination of Mains Operating at Hoop Stress Levels at or Above 30% of the Specified Minimum Yield Strength	64
GR-5.22	Requirements for Abandoning, Disconnecting, and Reinstating Distribution Facilities	64
GR-5.23	Maintenance of Specific Facilities	65
Chapter GR-6	Quality System Program for Hydrogen Piping and Pipeline Systems	
GR-6.1	Quality System Program	67
GR-6.2	Quality Manual	67
Figures		
GR-2.1.2(b)A	Minimum Temperatures Without Impact Testing for Carbon Steel Materials	19
GR-2.1.2(b)B	Reduction in Minimum Design Metal Temperature Without Impact Testing	21
GR-3.4.3(a)	Geometry of Weld Joint Detail Single Vee Groove Butt With Extended Land	32
GR-3.4.3(b)	Geometry of Weld Joint Detail Square Butt Weld	32
GR-3.4.3(c)	Unequal Pipe Component Thicknesses, Thicker Components Bored for Alignment	32
GR-3.4.3(d)	Geometry of Weld Joint Detail Single Vee Groove Butt, Open Root	32
GR-3.4.3(e)	Unequal Pipe Component Thicknesses, Thicker Components Taper- Bored to Align	33
GR-3.4.3(f)	Geometry of Weld Joint Detail Single Vee Groove Butt, Continuous Flat Backing Ring	33
GR-3.4.3(g)	Geometry of Weld Joint Detail Single Vee Groove Butt, Continuous Tapered Backing Ring	33
GR-3.4.3(h)	Geometry of Weld Joint Detail Single Vee Groove Butt, Consumable Insert	34
GR-3.4.3(i)	Preparation and Alignment of Pipe Branch to Pipe Header Connection	34
GR-3.4.4(a)	Geometry of Weld Deposit Single Vee Groove Butt, Open Root	35
GR-3.4.4(b)	Geometry of Weld Deposit Root Single Vee Groove Butt With Extended Land (Without Filler Metal)	35
GR-3.4.4(c)	Geometry of Weld Deposit Square Butt End (Without Filler Metal)	35
GR-3.4.5	Welding End Transition — Maximum Envelope	36
GR-3.4.6(a)	Geometry of Weld Deposit Single Vee Groove Butt, Open Root With Concavity	38
GR-3.4.7(a)	Fillet Weld Size	38
GR-3.4.7(b)	Typical Details for Double-Welded Slip-On Flanges	39
GR-3.4.7(c)	Minimum Welding Dimensions for Socket Welding Components to Pipe Including Fit-Up Detail	39
GR-3.4.9(a)–(d)	Typical Welded Branch Connections	40
GR-3.4.9(e)	Acceptable Details for Pipe Branch Attachment Welds	41



GR-3.4.9(f)	Acceptable Detail for Branch Connection of Pipe Fitting	42
GR-3.4.9(g)	Acceptable Details for Branch Attachment Suitable for 100% Radiography	42
GR-3.8.1	Joints for Tubular Components	47
Tables		
GR-2.1.1(a)	Material Specification Index for Piping and Pipe Components	13
GR-2.1.1(b)	Material Specification Index for Pipelines	16
GR-2.1.2(b)(2)	Requirements for Low Temperature Toughness Tests for Metals	18
GR-2.1.2(b)A	Tabular Values for Minimum Temperatures Without Impact Testing for Carbon Steel Materials	20
GR-2.1.3(a)	Impact Testing Requirements for Metals	22
GR-2.1.3(d)	Charpy Impact Test Temperature Reduction	23
GR-2.1.3(e)	Minimum Required Charpy V-Notch Impact Values	24
GR-3.4.6	Weld Reinforcement	37
GR-3.5	Preheat Temperatures	44
GR-3.6.1	Requirements for Postweld Heat Treatment of Weldments	44
PART IP INDUSTRIAL PIPING		
Chapter IP-1 Scope and Responsibilities		
IP-1.1	Scope	70
IP-1.2	Responsibilities	70
IP-1.3	Intent	70
IP-1.4	Determining Code Requirements	70
Chapter IP-2 Design Conditions and Criteria		
IP-2.1	Design Conditions	71
IP-2.2	Design Criteria	72
Chapter IP-3 Pressure Design of Piping Components		
IP-3.1	General	79
IP-3.2	Straight Pipe	79
IP-3.3	Curved and Mitered Segments of Pipe	80
IP-3.4	Branch Connections	81
IP-3.5	Closures	87
IP-3.6	Pressure Design of Flanges and Blanks	87
IP-3.7	Reducers	88
IP-3.8	Pressure Design of Other Components	88
Chapter IP-4 Service Requirements for Piping Components		
IP-4.1	Valves and Specialty Components	90
IP-4.2	Other Considerations	90
IP-4.3	Bolting and Tapped Holes for Components	90
Chapter IP-5 Service Requirements for Piping Joints		
IP-5.1	Scope	91
IP-5.2	Welded Joints	91
IP-5.3	Flanged Joints	91
IP-5.4	Expanded Joints	92
IP-5.5	Threaded Joints	92
IP-5.6	Caulked Joints	93
IP-5.7	Brazed and Soldered Joints	93
IP-5.8	Special Joints	94
Chapter IP-6 Flexibility and Support		
IP-6.1	Flexibility of Piping	95
IP-6.2	Piping Supports	100
Chapter IP-7 Specific Piping Systems		
IP-7.1	Instrument Piping	103
IP-7.2	Pressure-Relieving Systems	103



Chapter IP-8	Dimensions and Ratings of Components	
IP-8.1	Dimensional Requirements	104
IP-8.2	Ratings of Components	104
IP-8.3	Reference Documents	104
Chapter IP-9	Fabrication, Erection, and Assembly	
IP-9.1	General	106
IP-9.2	Responsibility	106
IP-9.3	Content and Coverage	106
IP-9.4	Packaged Equipment Piping	106
IP-9.5	Exclusions	106
IP-9.6	Fabrication and Erection	106
IP-9.7	Construction of Weldments	106
IP-9.8	Preheating for Weldments	106
IP-9.9	Heat Treatment	107
IP-9.10	Specific and Alternative Heat Treatment Requirements	107
IP-9.11	Construction of Brazements	107
IP-9.12	Bending and Forming of Pipe and Tube	107
IP-9.13	Assembly and Erection	107
IP-9.14	Threaded Joints	108
IP-9.15	Tubing Joints	108
IP-9.16	Expanded Joints and Special Joints	108
IP-9.17	Pipe Attachments and Supports	108
IP-9.18	Cleaning of Piping	108
IP-9.19	Inspection, Examination, and Testing	108
IP-9.20	Leak Testing of Piping Systems	109
IP-9.21	Records for Leak Testing	109
Chapter IP-10	Inspection, Examination, and Testing	
IP-10.1	Scope	110
IP-10.2	Responsibility	110
IP-10.3	Inspections by Owner	110
IP-10.4	Examinations by the Construction Organization	110
IP-10.5	Examination Requirements	110
IP-10.6	Testing	117
IP-10.7	Hydrostatic Leak Test	118
IP-10.8	Pneumatic Leak Test	118
IP-10.9	Hydrostatic-Pneumatic Leak Test	119
IP-10.10	Sensitive Leak Test	119
IP-10.11	Alternative Leak Test	119
IP-10.12	Mechanical and Metallurgical Testing	119
IP-10.13	Records of Testing	119
Figures		
IP-3.3.1	Nomenclature for Pipe Bends	80
IP-3.3.3	Nomenclature for Miter Bends	80
IP-3.4.2	Branch Connection Nomenclature	83
IP-3.4.3	Extruded Outlet Header Nomenclature	85
IP-3.6.3	Blanks	89
IP-6.1.5(d)(1)	Moments in Bends	98
IP-6.1.5(d)(2)	Moments in Branch Connections	99
IP-9.14(c)	Typical Threaded Joints Using Straight Threads	109
Tables		
IP-2.2.8(c)-1	Increased Casting Quality Factors, E_c	75
IP-2.2.8(c)-2	Acceptance Levels for Castings	75
IP-2.2.9	Longitudinal Weld Joint Quality Factor, E_j	76
IP-3.2	Values of Coefficient Y for $t < D/6$	79
IP-3.5	ASME BPV Code Section VIII, Division 1 References for Closures	87



IP-8.1	Component Standards	105
IP-10.5(a)	Required Nondestructive Examination for High, Medium, and Low Pressure Pipe Design and Acceptance Criteria for Weldments and Evaluation of Weld Imperfections	111
IP-10.5(b)	Acceptance Criterion/Value for Table IP-10.5(a)	113
IP-10.5.6	Required Ultrasonic or Eddy Current Examination of Pipe and Tubing for Longitudinal Defects	116
IP-10.5.7	Hardness Testing After PWHT	116
PART PL	PIPELINES	
Chapter PL-1	Scope and Exclusions	
PL-1.1	Scope	120
PL-1.2	Content and Coverage	120
PL-1.3	Exclusions	120
Chapter PL-2	Pipeline Systems Components and Fabrication Details	
PL-2.1	Purpose	121
PL-2.2	Piping System Components	121
PL-2.3	Reinforcement of Fabricated Branch Connections	123
PL-2.4	Multiple Openings and Extruded Outlets	124
PL-2.5	Expansion and Flexibility	125
PL-2.6	Design for Longitudinal Stress	126
PL-2.7	Supports and Anchorage for Exposed Piping	128
PL-2.8	Anchorage for Buried Piping	129
Chapter PL-3	Design, Installation, and Testing	
PL-3.1	Provisions for Design	130
PL-3.2	Buildings Intended for Human Occupancy	130
PL-3.3	Considerations Necessary for Concentrations of People in Location Class 1 or 2	131
PL-3.4	Intent	131
PL-3.5	Risk Assessment	131
PL-3.6	Location Class and Changes in Number of Buildings Intended for Human Occupancy	132
PL-3.7	Steel Pipeline	134
PL-3.8	Hot Taps	141
PL-3.9	Precautions to Prevent Combustion of Hydrogen–Air Mixtures During Construction Operations	141
PL-3.10	Testing After Construction	141
PL-3.11	Commissioning of Facilities	142
PL-3.12	Pipe-Type and Bottle-Type Holders	143
PL-3.13	Control and Limiting of Hydrogen Gas Pressure	143
PL-3.14	Up-rating	146
PL-3.15	Valves	147
PL-3.16	Vault Provisions for Design, Construction, and Installation of Pipeline Components	147
PL-3.17	Location for Customers' Meter and Regulator Installations	148
PL-3.18	Hydrogen Gas Service Lines	148
PL-3.19	Inspection and Examination	149
PL-3.20	Repair or Removal of Defective Welds in Piping Intended to Operate at Hoop Stress Levels of 20% or More of the Specified Minimum Yield Strength	152
PL-3.21	Steel Pipeline Service Conversions	152
Tables		
PL-2.3.2	Reinforcement of Fabricated Branch Connections, Special Requirements	125
PL-2.5.2	Thermal Expansion of Carbon and Low Alloy Steel	126



PL-2.5.5	Modulus of Elasticity for Carbon and Low Alloy Steel	126
PL-3.6.1	Location Class	132
PL-3.7.1	Nominal Chemical Composition Within a Specification/Grade	136
PL-3.7.1(b)(6)-1	Basic Design Factor, F (Used With Option A)	136
PL-3.7.1(b)(6)-2	Design Factors for Steel Pipe Construction (Used With Option A)	137
PL-3.7.1(b)(6)-3	Basic Design Factor, F (Used With Option B)	137
PL-3.7.1(b)(6)-4	Design Factors for Steel Pipe Construction (Used With Option B)	138
PL-3.7.1(b)(8)	Temperature Derating Factor, T , for Steel Pipe	138
PL-3.7.5(a)(2)	Maximum Degree of Bending	139
Mandatory Appendices		
I	Design of Above-Ground Hydrogen Gas Pipeline Facilities	155
II	Reference Standards	159
III	Safeguarding	163
IV	Nomenclature	165
VI	Preparation of Technical Inquiries	170
VII	Gas Leakage and Control Criteria	172
IX	Allowable Stresses and Quality Factors for Metallic Piping, Pipeline, and Bolting Materials	179
Nonmandatory Appendices		
A	Precautionary Considerations	216
B	Alternative Rules for Evaluating Stress Range	226
C	Recommended Practices for Proof Testing of Pipelines in Place	228
D	Estimating Strain in Dents	231
E	Sample Calculations for Branch Reinforcement in Piping	232
F	Welded Branch Connections and Extruded Headers in Pipeline Systems	236



FOREWORD

Responding to an evident need and at the request of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Standards Association initiated Project B31 in March 1926, with ASME as sole administrative sponsor. The breadth of the field involved required that membership of the Sectional Committee be drawn from some 40 engineering societies, industries, government bureaus, institutes, and trade associations.

The initial publication in 1935 was the American Tentative Standard Code for Pressure Piping. Revisions from 1942 through 1955 were published as the American Standard Code for Pressure Piping, ASA B31.1. Then it was decided that the various industry sections, beginning with ASA B31.8-1955, Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems, be published as separate documents. The first Petroleum Refinery Piping Code Section was designated ASA B31.3-1959. ASA B31.3 revisions were published in 1962 and 1966. In 1967–1969, the American Standards Association became first the United States of America Standards Institute, then the American National Standards Institute. The Sectional Committee became American National Standards Committee B31, and the Code was renamed the American National Standard Code for Pressure Piping. The next B31.3 revision was designated ANSI B31.3-1973. Addenda were published through 1975. The Standards Committee was reorganized in 1978 as a Committee operating under ASME procedures with ANSI accreditation. It is now the ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31 Committee. The Section committee structure remains essentially unchanged.

As a result of preliminary studies, it was concluded that gaps exist between existing piping and pipeline codes and standards, and hydrogen infrastructure applications. A Project Team was formed under the B31 Standards Committee to develop a new B31.12 Code for hydrogen piping and pipelines. The Project Team was subsequently restructured under the B31 Standards Committee as a Section Committee.

The first edition of the B31.12 Code applies to design, construction, operation, and maintenance requirements for piping, pipelines, and distribution systems in hydrogen service. Typical applications are power generation, process plants, refining, transportation, distribution, and automotive filling stations. This Code is comprised of Part GR, General Requirements, including common requirements referenced by all other parts; Part IP, Industrial Piping; and Part PL, Pipelines, including distribution systems. These Parts incorporate information specific to hydrogen service and either reference or incorporate applicable parts of ASME B31.3, Process Piping; ASME B31.1, Power Piping; ASME B31.8, Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems; ASME B31.8S, Managing System Integrity of Gas Pipelines; and Section VIII, Division 3 of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, where appropriate.

Material performance factors have been included to account for the adverse effects of hydrogen gas on the mechanical properties of carbon and low alloy steels operating within the hydrogen embrittlement range. Many materials included in B31.3 have been omitted from B31.12's tables due to their unsuitability for hydrogen service. Rules have been added for conversion or retrofit of existing pipeline and distribution systems from natural gas or petroleum to hydrogen service. Parts covering commercial, residential, and nonmetallic systems will be added in future editions. Material performance factors will be reevaluated as materials research data is developed and our understanding of hydrogen embrittlement of carbon and low alloy steels increases.

ASME B31.12-2008 was approved by the American National Standards Institute on December 3, 2008.



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Code for Pressure Piping

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National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors — R. E. White
National Certified Pipe Welding Bureau — J. Hansmann
National Fire Protection Association — T. C. Lemoff
Valve Manufacturers Association — R. A. Handschumacher



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PART GR

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Chapter GR-1

Scope and Definitions

GR-1.1 SCOPE

This Code is applicable to piping in gaseous and liquid hydrogen service and to pipelines in gaseous hydrogen service. This Code is applicable up to and including the joint connecting the piping to associated pressure vessels and equipment but not to the vessels and equipment themselves. It is applicable to the location and type of support elements but not to the structure to which the support elements are attached. The design for pressure and temperature shall be in accordance with the requirements of Part IP for industrial piping and Part PL for pipelines. This Code is presented in the following parts and appendices:

(a) *Part GR — General Requirements.* This part contains requirements applicable to and referenced by other parts. This part contains definitions and requirements for materials, welding, brazing, heat treating, forming, testing, inspection, examination, operation, and maintenance. Also, this part contains quality system topics common to the other parts.

(b) *Part IP — Industrial Piping.* This part includes requirements for components, design, fabrication, assembly, erection, inspection, examination, and testing of piping.

(c) *Part PL — Pipelines.* This part sets forth requirements for components, design, installation, and testing of hydrogen pipelines.

(d) Mandatory Appendices I through IX

(e) Nonmandatory Appendices A through F

Each part defines requirements for piping or pipelines, as applicable, within its scope. The requirements are different for different aspects of components, design, fabrication, installation, assembly, erection, inspection, examination, and testing. It is required that each part be used in conjunction with the General Requirements section but independent of the other parts. The joint connecting piping governed by two different parts shall

be subject exclusively to the requirements of one of the two parts. It is not intended that this edition of this Code be applied retroactively to existing hydrogen systems.

GR-1.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

GR-1.2.1 Owner

The owner shall have overall responsibility for compliance with this Code and for establishing the requirements for design, construction, examination, inspection, testing, operation, and maintenance of the hydrogen piping or pipeline system.

GR-1.2.2 Designer

The designer is responsible to the owner for assurance that the engineering design of piping or the pipeline system complies with the requirements of this Code and with any additional requirements established by the owner.

GR-1.2.3 Construction Organization

The construction organization of piping and pipeline systems is responsible for providing materials, components, and workmanship in compliance with the requirements of this Code and the engineering design.

GR-1.2.4 Owner's Inspector

The owner's Inspector is responsible to the owner to verify that all required examinations, inspections, and testing are complete. The owner's Inspector verifies that all required certifications and records have been completed. Also, the owner's Inspector is responsible for verification of the construction organization's quality systems program implementation.

