

**ASME B31.8-2014**  
(Revision of ASME B31.8-2012)

# Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems

**ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31**

**AN INTERNATIONAL PIPING CODE®**



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Mechanical Engineers**

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**The American Society of  
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# CONTENTS

Foreword .....		viii
Committee Roster .....		x
Introduction .....		xiv
Summary of Changes .....		xvi
	<b>General Provisions and Definitions .....</b>	<b>1</b>
801	General .....	1
802	Scope and Intent .....	1
803	Piping Systems Definitions .....	2
804	Piping Systems Component Definitions .....	4
805	Design, Fabrication, Operation, and Testing Terms and Definitions .....	6
806	Quality Assurance .....	12
807	Training and Qualification of Personnel .....	12
<b>Chapter I</b>	<b>Materials and Equipment .....</b>	<b>14</b>
810	Materials and Equipment .....	14
811	Qualification of Materials and Equipment .....	14
812	Materials for Use in Low-Temperature Applications .....	15
813	Marking .....	15
814	Material Specifications .....	15
815	Equipment Specifications .....	16
816	Transportation of Line Pipe .....	16
817	Conditions for the Reuse of Pipe .....	16
<b>Table</b>		
817.1.3-1	Tensile Testing .....	17
<b>Chapter II</b>	<b>Welding .....</b>	<b>19</b>
820	Welding .....	19
821	General .....	19
822	Preparation for Welding .....	19
823	Qualification of Procedures and Welders .....	19
824	Preheating .....	20
825	Stress Relieving .....	20
826	Weld Inspection Requirements .....	21
827	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 .....	22
<b>Chapter III</b>	<b>Piping System Components and Fabrication Details .....</b>	<b>23</b>
830	Piping System Components and Fabrication Details .....	23
831	Piping System Components .....	23
832	Expansion and Flexibility .....	30
833	Design for Longitudinal Stress .....	31
834	Supports and Anchorage for Exposed Piping .....	33
835	Anchorage for Buried Piping .....	34
<b>Tables</b>		
831.4.2-1	Reinforcement of Welded Branch Connections, Special Requirements .....	28
832.2-1	Thermal Expansion or Contraction of Piping Materials .....	30



832.5-1	Modulus of Elasticity for Carbon and Low Alloy Steel .....	31
<b>Chapter IV</b>	<b>Design, Installation, and Testing .....</b>	<b>35</b>
840	Design, Installation, and Testing .....	35
841	Steel Pipe .....	37
842	Other Materials .....	51
843	Compressor Stations .....	59
844	Pipe-Type and Bottle-Type Holders .....	62
845	Control and Limiting of Gas Pressure .....	63
846	Valves .....	68
847	Vaults .....	69
848	Customers' Meters and Regulators .....	70
849	Gas Service Lines .....	71
<b>Tables</b>		
841.1.6-1	Basic Design Factor, <i>F</i> .....	39
841.1.6-2	Design Factors for Steel Pipe Construction .....	40
841.1.7-1	Longitudinal Joint Factor, <i>E</i> .....	41
841.1.8-1	Temperature Derating Factor, <i>T</i> , for Steel Pipe .....	41
841.1.11-1	Pipeline Cover Requirements .....	43
841.2.3-1	Pipeline Field Cold Bend Requirements .....	45
841.3.2-1	Test Requirements for Steel Pipelines and Mains to Operate at Hoop Stresses of 30% or More of the Specified Minimum Yield Strength of the Pipe .....	49
841.3.3-1	Maximum Hoop Stress Permissible During an Air or Gas Test .....	50
842.1.1-1	Standard Thickness Selection Table for Ductile Iron Pipe .....	52
842.2.2-1	Wall Thickness and Standard Dimension Ratio for Thermoplastic Pipe .....	54
842.2.3-1	Diameter and Wall Thickness for Reinforced Thermosetting Plastic Pipe .....	54
842.2.9-1	Nominal Values for Coefficients of Thermal Expansion of Thermoplastic Pipe Materials .....	56
844.3-1	Design Factors, <i>F</i> .....	62
844.3-2	Minimum Clearance Between Containers and Fenced Boundaries .....	62
845.2.2-1	Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure for Steel or Plastic Pipelines or Mains .....	64
845.2.3-1	Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure for Pipelines Operating at 100 psig (690 kPa) or More .....	64
845.2.3-2	Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure for Pipelines Operating at Less Than 100 psig (690 kPa) .....	64
<b>Chapter V</b>	<b>Operating and Maintenance Procedures .....</b>	<b>75</b>
850	Operating and Maintenance Procedures Affecting the Safety of Gas Transmission and Distribution Facilities .....	75
851	Pipeline Maintenance .....	77
852	Distribution Piping Maintenance .....	83
853	Miscellaneous Facilities Maintenance .....	86
854	Location Class and Changes in Number of Buildings Intended for Human Occupancy .....	89
855	Pipeline Service Conversions .....	91
856	Odorization .....	91
857	Upgrading .....	92



<b>Figure</b>		
851.4.1-1	Allowable Ripple Heights .....	80
<b>Tables</b>		
851.4.4-1	Wall Thickness for Unlikely Occurrence of Burn-Through .....	81
854.1-1	Location Class .....	90
857.4-1	Wall Thickness Allowance for Upgrading a Ductile Iron High-Pressure Main or System .....	94
<b>Chapter VI</b>	<b>Corrosion Control</b> .....	95
860	Corrosion Control — General .....	95
861	External Corrosion Control for Steel Pipelines .....	96
862	Cathodic Protection Criteria .....	98
863	Operation and Maintenance of Cathodic Protection Systems .....	98
864	Internal Corrosion Control .....	98
865	Steel Pipelines in Arctic Environments .....	99
866	Steel Pipelines in High-Temperature Service .....	100
867	Stress Corrosion and Other Phenomena .....	101
868	Cast Iron, Wrought Iron, Ductile Iron, and Other Metallic Pipelines .....	101
<b>Chapter VII</b>	<b>Intentionally Left Blank</b> .....	102
<b>Chapter VIII</b>	<b>Offshore Gas Transmission</b> .....	103
A800	Offshore Gas Transmission .....	103
A801	General .....	103
A802	Scope and Intent .....	103
A803	Offshore Gas Transmission Terms and Definitions .....	103
A811	Qualification of Materials and Equipment .....	104
A814	Material Specifications .....	104
A817	Conditions for the Reuse and Requalification of Pipe ....	105
A820	Welding Offshore Pipelines .....	105
A821	General .....	105
A823	Qualification of Procedures and Welders .....	105
A825	Stress Relieving .....	106
A826	Inspection of Welds .....	106
A830	Piping System Components and Fabrication Details .....	106
A831	Piping System Components .....	106
A832	Expansion and Flexibility .....	106
A834	Supports and Anchorage for Exposed Piping .....	106
A835	Anchorage for Buried Piping .....	106
A840	Design, Installation, and Testing .....	107
A841	Design Considerations .....	107
A842	Strength Considerations .....	108
A843	Compressor Stations .....	111
A844	On-Bottom Stability .....	112
A846	Valves .....	113
A847	Testing .....	113
A850	Operating and Maintenance Procedures Affecting the Safety of Gas Transmission Facilities .....	114
A851	Pipeline Maintenance .....	114
A854	Location Class .....	115
A860	Corrosion Control of Offshore Pipelines .....	115
A861	External Corrosion Control .....	115
A862	Cathodic Protection Criteria .....	117
A864	Internal Corrosion Control .....	117



<b>Table</b>		
A842.2.2-1	Design Factors for Offshore Pipelines, Platform Piping, and Pipeline Risers .....	109
<b>Chapter IX</b>	<b>Sour Gas Service</b> .....	118
B800	Sour Gas Service .....	118
B801	General .....	118
B802	Scope and Intent .....	118
B803	Sour Gas Terms and Definitions .....	118
B813	Marking .....	119
B814	Material Specifications .....	119
B820	Welding Sour Gas Pipelines .....	119
B821	General .....	119
B822	Preparation for Welding .....	119
B823	Qualification of Procedures and Welders .....	119
B824	Preheating .....	119
B825	Stress Relieving .....	120
B826	Welding and Inspection Tests .....	120
B830	Piping System Components and Fabrication Details .....	120
B831	Piping System Components .....	120
B840	Design, Installation, and Testing .....	120
B841	Steel Pipe .....	120
B842	Other Materials .....	121
B843	Compressor Stations .....	121
B844	Pipe-Type and Bottle-Type Holders .....	121
B850	Additional Operating and Maintenance Considerations Affecting the Safety of Sour Gas Pipelines .....	121
B851	Pipeline Maintenance .....	122
B854	Location Class and Changes in Number of Buildings Intended for Human Occupancy .....	122
B860	Corrosion Control of Sour Gas Pipelines .....	122
B861	External Corrosion Control for Steel Pipelines .....	124
B864	Internal Corrosion Control .....	124
B867	Stress Corrosion and Other Phenomena .....	124
<b>Tables</b>		
B850.1-1	100-ppm ROE .....	123
B850.1-2	500-ppm ROE .....	123
B850.1-3	Metric Example for 100-ppm ROE .....	123
B850.1-4	Metric Example for 500-ppm ROE .....	123
<b>Appendices</b>		
Mandatory Appendix A	References .....	125
Mandatory Appendix B	Numbers and Subjects of Standards and Specifications That Appear in Mandatory Appendix A .....	130
Nonmandatory Appendix C	Publications That Do Not Appear in the Code or Mandatory Appendix A .....	131
Mandatory Appendix D	Specified Minimum Yield Strength for Steel Pipe Commonly Used in Piping Systems .....	134
Mandatory Appendix E	Flexibility and Stress Intensification Factors .....	137
Mandatory Appendix F	Extruded Headers and Welded Branch Connections .....	143
Mandatory Appendix G	Testing of Welders Limited to Work on Lines Operating at Hoop Stresses of Less Than 20% of the Specified Minimum Yield Strength .....	151
Mandatory Appendix H	Flattening Test for Pipe .....	152
Mandatory Appendix I	End Preparations for Buttwelding .....	153
Nonmandatory Appendix J	Commonly Used Conversion Factors .....	162



Mandatory Appendix K	Criteria for Cathodic Protection .....	166
Nonmandatory Appendix L	Determination of Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipe .....	168
Nonmandatory Appendix M	Gas Leakage Control Criteria .....	169
Nonmandatory Appendix N	Recommended Practice for Hydrostatic Testing of Pipelines in Place .....	176
Nonmandatory Appendix O	Preparation of Technical Inquiries .....	178
Nonmandatory Appendix P	Nomenclature for Figures .....	179
Mandatory Appendix Q	Scope Diagrams .....	180
Nonmandatory Appendix R	Estimating Strain in Dents .....	183
<b>Index</b> .....		185



# FOREWORD

The need for a national code for pressure piping became increasingly evident from 1915 to 1925. To meet this need, the American Engineering Standards Committee (later changed to the American Standards Association, now the American National Standards Institute) initiated Project B31 in March 1926 at the request of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and with that Society as sole sponsor. After several years of work by Sectional Committee B31 and its subcommittees, a first Edition was published in 1935 as an American Tentative Standard Code for Pressure Piping.

A revision of the original tentative standard began in 1937. Several more years of effort were given to securing uniformity among sections, eliminating divergent requirements and discrepancies, keeping the Code abreast of current developments in welding technique, calculating stress computations, and including reference to new dimensional and material standards. During this period, a new section on refrigeration piping was prepared in cooperation with the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers and complemented the American Standard Code for Mechanical Refrigeration. This work culminated in the 1942 American Standard Code for Pressure Piping.

Supplements 1 and 2 of the 1942 Code, which appeared in 1944 and 1947, respectively, introduced new dimensional and material standards, a new formula for pipe wall thickness, and more comprehensive requirements for instrument and control piping. Shortly after the 1942 Code was issued, procedures were established for handling inquiries requiring explanation or interpretation of Code requirements and for publishing such inquiries and answers in *Mechanical Engineering* for the information of all concerned.

By 1948, continuing increases in the severity of service conditions combined with the development of new materials and designs to meet these higher requirements warranted more extensive changes in the Code than could be provided from supplements alone. The decision was reached by the American Standards Association and the sponsor to reorganize the sectional committee and its several subcommittees and to invite the various interested bodies to reaffirm their representatives or to designate new ones.

Because of the wide field involved, between 30 and 40 different engineering societies, government bureaus, trade associations, institutes, and similar organizations had one or more representatives on the sectional committee, plus a few "members at large" to represent general interests. Code activities were subdivided according to the scope of the several sections. General direction of Code activities rested with the Standards Committee officers and an executive committee, membership of which consisted principally of Standards Committee officers and section chairmen.

Following its reorganization in 1948, Standards Committee B31 made an intensive review of the 1942 Code that resulted in

- (a) a general revision and extension of requirements to agree with present-day practice
- (b) the revision of references to existing dimensional standards and material specifications and the addition of references to the new ones
- (c) the clarification of ambiguous or conflicting requirements

A revision was presented for letter ballot vote of Standards Committee B31. Following approval by this body, the project was approved by the sponsor organization and by the American Standards Association. It was finally designated as an American Standard in February 1951, with the designation B31.1-1951.

Standards Committee B31 at its annual meeting of November 29, 1951, authorized the separate publication of a section of the Code for Pressure Piping addressing gas transmission and distribution piping systems, to be complete with the applicable parts of Section 2, Gas and Air Piping Systems; Section 6, Fabrication Details; and Section 7, Materials — Their Specifications and Identification. The purpose was to provide an integrated document for gas transmission and distribution piping that would not require cross-referencing to other sections of the Code.

The first Edition of this integrated document, known as American Standard Code for Pressure Piping, Section 8, Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems, was published in 1952 and



consisted almost entirely of material taken from Sections 2, 6, and 7 of the 1951 Edition of the Pressure Piping Code.

A new section committee was organized in 1952 to update Section 8 as necessary to address modern materials and methods of construction and operation.

After a review by B31 Executive and Standards Committees in 1955, a decision was made to develop and publish industry sections as separate Code documents of the American Standard B31 Code for Pressure Piping. The 1955 Edition constituted a general revision of the 1952 Edition with a considerably expanded scope. Further experience in the application of the Code resulted in revisions in 1958, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1975, and 1982.

In December 1978, the American National Standards Committee B31 was reorganized as the ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31 Committee. The code designation was also changed to ANSI/ASME B31.

The 1989 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 1986 Edition and the subsequent addenda issued to the 1986 Edition.

The 1992 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 1989 Edition, the subsequent three addenda, and the two special Errata issued to the 1989 Edition.

The 1995 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 1992 Edition and the subsequent three addenda issued to the 1992 Edition.

The 1999 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 1995 Edition and the revisions that occurred following the issuance of the 1995 Edition.

The 2003 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 1999 Edition and revisions that occurred following the issuance of the 1999 Edition.

The 2007 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 2003 Edition and revisions that occurred following the issuance of the 2003 Edition.

The 2010 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 2007 Edition and revisions that occurred following the issuance of the 2007 Edition.

The 2012 Edition of the Code was a compilation of the 2010 Edition and revisions that occurred following the issuance of the 2010 Edition.

The 2014 Edition of the Code is a compilation of the 2012 Edition and revisions that have occurred since the issuance of the 2012 Edition. This Edition was approved by the American National Standards Institute on August 15, 2014.



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(The following is the roster of the Committee at the time of approval of this Code.)

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# INTRODUCTION

The ASME Code for Pressure Piping consists of many individually published sections, each an American National Standard. Hereafter, in this Introduction and in the text of this Code Section, B31.8, when the word “Code” is used without specific identification, it means this Code Section.

The Code sets forth engineering requirements deemed necessary for the safe design and construction of pressure piping. Although safety is the basic consideration, this factor alone will not necessarily govern the final specifications of any piping system. The designer is cautioned that the Code is not a design handbook; it does not eliminate the need for the designer or for competent engineering judgment.

To the greatest possible extent, Code requirements for design are stated in terms of basic design principles and formulas. These are supplemented as necessary with specific requirements to ensure uniform application of principles and to guide selection and application of piping elements. The Code prohibits designs and practices known to be unsafe and contains warnings where caution, but not prohibition, is warranted.

This Code Section includes

- (a) references to acceptable material specifications and component standards, including dimensional and mechanical property requirements
- (b) requirements for designing components and assemblies
- (c) requirements and data for evaluating and limiting stresses, reactions, and movements associated with pressure, temperature changes, and other forces
- (d) guidance and limitations on selecting and applying materials, components, and joining methods
- (e) requirements for fabricating, assembling, and installing piping
- (f) requirements for examining, inspecting, and testing piping
- (g) procedures for operation and maintenance that are essential to public safety
- (h) provisions for protecting pipelines from external and internal corrosion

It is intended that this Edition of Code Section B31.8 not be retroactive. The latest edition issued at least 6 months before the original contract date for the first phase of activity covering a piping system or systems shall be the governing document, unless agreement is specifically made between contracting parties to use another issue, or unless the regulatory body having jurisdiction imposes the use of another issue or different requirements.

Users of this Code are cautioned against making use of revisions without assurance that they are acceptable to any authorities of jurisdiction where the piping is to be installed.

The Code is under the direction of ASME Committee B31, Code for Pressure Piping, which is organized and operates under procedures of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers that have been accredited by the American National Standards Institute. The Committee is a continuing one and keeps all Code Sections current with new developments in materials, construction, and industrial practice.

When no Section of the ASME Code for Pressure Piping specifically covers a piping system, the user has discretion to select any Section determined to be generally applicable; however, it is cautioned that supplementary requirements to the Section chosen may be necessary to provide for a safe piping system for the intended application. Technical limitations of the various Sections, legal requirements, and possible applicability of other Codes or Standards are some of the factors to be considered by the user in determining the applicability of any Section of this Code.

## Appendices

This Code contains two kinds of appendices: mandatory and nonmandatory. Mandatory appendices contain materials the user needs to carry out a requirement or recommendation in the main text of the Code. Nonmandatory appendices, which are written in mandatory language, are offered for application at the user’s discretion.

## Interpretations and Revisions

The Committee has established an orderly procedure to consider requests for interpretation and revision of Code requirements. To receive consideration, inquiries must be in writing and must give full particulars. (See Nonmandatory Appendix O covering preparation of technical inquiries.)

The approved reply to an inquiry will be sent directly to the inquirer. In addition, the question and reply will be published as part of an Interpretation Supplement to the Code Section, issued with the revisions.

Requests for interpretation and suggestions for revision should be addressed to the Secretary, ASME B31 Committee, The American Society of



Mechanical Engineers, Two Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990.

### **Cases**

A Case is the prescribed form of reply to an inquiry when study indicates that the Code wording needs clarification or when the reply modifies existing requirements of the Code or grants permission to use new materials or alternative constructions. The Case will be published on the B31.8 Committee Page at <http://cstools.asme.org/>.

A Case is normally issued for a limited period, after which it may be renewed, incorporated in the Code, or allowed to expire if there is no indication of further need for the requirements covered by the Case. The provisions of a Case, however, may be used after its expiration or withdrawal, provided the Case was effective on the original contract date or was adopted before completion of the work, and the contracting parties agree to its use.

Materials are listed in the Stress Tables only when sufficient usage in piping within the scope of the Code has been shown. Materials may be covered by a Case. Requests for listing shall include evidence of satisfactory usage and specific data to permit establishment of allowable stresses or pressure rating, maximum and minimum temperature limits, and other restrictions. Additional criteria can be found in the guidelines for addition of new materials in the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section II. (To develop usage and gain experience, unlisted materials may be used in accordance with para. 811.2.2.)

### **Effective Date**

This Edition, when issued, contains new Code provisions. It is a compilation of the 2012 Edition and revisions to the 2012 Edition.



# ASME B31.8-2014 SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Following approval by the B31 Committee and ASME, and after public review, ASME B31.8-2014 was approved by the American National Standards Institute on August 15, 2014.

ASME B31.8-2014 consists of editorial changes, revisions, and corrections identified by a margin note, **(14)**, placed next to the affected area.

<i>Page</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Change</i>
1	801.1	First sentence editorially revised
	802.1	In subpara. (b)(10), reference to ASME B31.11 revised to ASME B31.4
14	811.1	Subparagraph (b) editorially revised
	811.2.3	Subparagraph (c) editorially revised
15	814.1.1	Note (1) revised
16	815	Fourth sentence editorially revised
	816	Second paragraph editorially revised
23, 24	831.1.1	(1) References updated (2) Subparagraph (b) revised
	831.2.1	References updated
28	831.4.2	Subparagraph (g) revised
32	833.4	(1) In subpara. (a)(1), equation revised (2) Subparagraph (d) revised
33	834.4	Subparagraph (a) revised
36	840.2.2	Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) revised
37, 38	841.1.2	In subparas. (b) and (c), references to API 5L updated
39, 42	841.1.9	(1) In subpara. (a), first sentence revised (2) In subpara. (k), equations revised
40	Table 841.1.6-2	Revised
45, 46	841.2.4	In subpara. (c)(3), second sentence revised
51	842.1.1	In subpara. (d), second sentence revised
53	842.2.1	In definition for <i>S</i> , spelling of “specified” corrected
59	843.3.1	Subparagraph (b) revised
64	Table 845.2.2-1	“Pressure for Steel” column revised
66, 67	845.2.7	In subpara. (c)(3), third sentence revised
78	851.4	First paragraph added



<i>Page</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Change</i>
87	853.3.1	In subpara. (b)(2), first sentence editorially revised
89	854.2	In subpara. (c), last sentence revised
103, 104	A802	Editorially revised
	A803	Definition for <i>steel catenary riser (SCR)</i> added
106	A831.1.1	References updated
111	A843.1.5	Added
113	A847.2	Revised
118	B802.2	Editorially revised
125–129	Mandatory Appendix A	Updated
131–133	Nonmandatory Appendix C	Updated
143	F-1	Under definition for $r_o$ , subparas. (a) and (b) revised
149	F-2.2.5M	Revised

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

The interpretations to ASME B31.8 are included in this edition as a separate section for the user's convenience.



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# GAS TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION PIPING SYSTEMS

## General Provisions and Definitions

### 801 GENERAL

#### (14) 801.1 Approved Standards and Specifications

Standards and specifications approved for use under this Code and the names and addresses of the sponsoring organizations are shown in Mandatory Appendix A. It is not considered practicable to refer to a specific edition of each of the standards and specifications in the individual Code paragraphs.

#### 801.2 Use of Standards and Specifications Incorporated by Reference

Some standards and specifications cited in Mandatory Appendix A are supplemented by specific requirements elsewhere in this Code. Users of this Code are advised against attempting direct application of any of these standards without carefully observing the Code's reference to that standard.

#### 801.3 Standard Dimensions

Adherence to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) dimensions is strongly recommended wherever practicable. Paragraphs or notations specifying these and other dimensional standards in this Code, however, shall not be mandatory, provided that other designs of at least equal strength and tightness, capable of withstanding the same test requirements, are substituted.

#### 801.4 SI (Metric) Conversion

For factors used in converting U.S. Customary units to SI units, see Nonmandatory Appendix J.

### 802 SCOPE AND INTENT

#### (14) 802.1 Scope

(a) This Code covers the design, fabrication, installation, inspection, and testing of pipeline facilities used for the transportation of gas. This Code also covers safety aspects of the operation and maintenance of those facilities. (See Mandatory Appendix Q for scope diagrams.)

This Code is concerned only with certain safety aspects of liquefied petroleum gases when they are

vaporized and used as gaseous fuels. All of the requirements of NFPA 58 and NFPA 59 and of this Code concerning design, construction, and operation and maintenance of piping facilities shall apply to piping systems handling butane, propane, or mixtures of these gases.

(b) This Code does not apply to

(1) design and manufacture of pressure vessels covered by the BPV Code<sup>1</sup>

(2) piping with metal temperatures above 450°F (232°C) or below -20°F (-29°C) (For low-temperature considerations, see para. 812.)

(3) piping beyond the outlet of the customer's meter set assembly (Refer to ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54.)

(4) piping in oil refineries or natural gasoline extraction plants, gas treating plant piping other than the main gas stream piping in dehydration, and all other processing plants installed as part of a gas transmission system, gas manufacturing plants, industrial plants, or mines (See other applicable sections of the ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31.)

(5) vent piping to operate at substantially atmospheric pressures for waste gases of any kind

(6) wellhead assemblies, including control valves, flow lines between wellhead and trap or separator, offshore platform production facility piping, or casing and tubing in gas or oil wells (For offshore platform production facility piping, see API RP 14E.)

(7) the design and manufacture of proprietary items of equipment, apparatus, or instruments

(8) the design and manufacture of heat exchangers (Refer to appropriate TEMA<sup>2</sup> standard.)

(9) liquid petroleum transportation piping systems (Refer to ASME B31.4.)

(10) liquid slurry transportation piping systems (Refer to ASME B31.4.)

(11) carbon dioxide transportation piping systems

<sup>1</sup> BPV Code references here and elsewhere in this Code are to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code.

<sup>2</sup> Tubular Exchanger Manufacturers Association, 25 North Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

