

within a specified extent of welding. For girth, miter, and branch groove welds the minimum requirement is

(1) for sizes \leq DN 65 (NPS 2½), a single elliptical exposure encompassing the entire weld circumference

(2) for sizes $>$ DN 65, the lesser of 25% of the inside circumference or 152 mm (6 in.)

For longitudinal welds the minimum requirement is 152 mm (6 in.) of weld length.

344.6 Ultrasonic Examination

344.6.1 Method. Examination of castings is covered in para. 302.3.3; other product forms are not covered. Ultrasonic examination of welds shall be performed in accordance with BPV Code, Section V, Article 4, except that the alternative specified in (a) and (b) below is permitted for basic calibration blocks specified in T-434.2.1 and T-434.3.

(a) When the basic calibration blocks have not received heat treatment in accordance with T-434.1.5, transfer methods shall be used to correlate the responses from the basic calibration block and the component. Transfer is accomplished by noting the difference between responses received from the same reference reflector in the basic calibration block and in the component and correcting for the difference.

(b) The reference reflector may be a V-notch (which must subsequently be removed), an angle beam search unit acting as a reflector, or any other reflector that will aid in accomplishing the transfer.

(c) When the transfer method is chosen as an alternative, it shall be used, at the minimum

(1) for sizes \leq DN 50 (NPS 2), once in each 10 welded joints examined

(2) for sizes $>$ DN 50 and \leq DN 450 (NPS 18), once in each 1.5 m (5 ft) of welding examined

(3) for sizes $>$ DN 450, once for each welded joint examined

(d) Each type of material and each size and wall thickness shall be considered separately in applying the transfer method. In addition, the transfer method shall be used at least twice on each type of weld joint.

(e) The reference level for monitoring discontinuities shall be modified to reflect the transfer correction when the transfer method is used.

(16) **344.6.2 Acceptance Criteria.** Acceptance criteria shall be as described in (a) or (b).

(a) A linear-type discontinuity is unacceptable if the amplitude of the indication exceeds the reference level and its length exceeds

(1) 6 mm (¼ in.) for $\bar{T}_w \leq 19$ mm (¾ in.)

(2) $\bar{T}_w/3$ for 19 mm $< \bar{T}_w \leq 57$ mm (2¼ in.)

(3) 19 mm (¾ in.) for $\bar{T}_w > 57$ mm (2¼ in.)

(b) The fracture mechanics ultrasonic acceptance criteria in Appendix R may be used if all requirements of Appendix R are met.

344.7 In-Process Examination

344.7.1 Definition. In-process examination comprises examination of the following, as applicable:

(a) joint preparation and cleanliness

(b) preheating

(c) fit-up, joint clearance, and internal alignment prior to joining

(d) variables specified by the joining procedure, including filler material

(1) (for welding) position and electrode

(2) (for brazing) position, flux, brazing temperature, proper wetting, and capillary action

(e) (for welding) condition of the root pass after cleaning — external and, where accessible, internal — aided by liquid penetrant or magnetic particle examination when specified in the engineering design

(f) (for welding) slag removal and weld condition between passes

(g) appearance of the finished joint

344.7.2 Method. The examination is visual, in accordance with para. 344.2, unless additional methods are specified in the engineering design.

345 TESTING

345.1 Required Leak Test

Prior to initial operation, and after completion of the applicable examinations required by para. 341, each piping system shall be tested to ensure tightness. The test shall be a hydrostatic leak test in accordance with para. 345.4 except as provided herein.

(a) At the owner's option, a piping system in Category D fluid service may be subjected to an initial service leak test in accordance with para. 345.7, in lieu of the hydrostatic leak test.

(b) Where the owner considers a hydrostatic leak test impracticable, either a pneumatic test in accordance with para. 345.5 or a combined hydrostatic-pneumatic test in accordance with para. 345.6 may be substituted, recognizing the hazard of energy stored in compressed gas.

(c) Where the owner considers both hydrostatic and pneumatic leak testing impracticable, the alternative specified in para. 345.9 may be used if both of the following conditions apply:

(1) a hydrostatic test would

(a) damage linings or internal insulation

(b) contaminate a process that would be hazardous, corrosive, or inoperative in the presence of moisture

(c) require significant support modifications for the hydrostatic test load or

(d) present the danger of brittle fracture due to low metal temperature during the test

(2) a pneumatic test would

(a) present an undue hazard of possible release of energy stored in the system or

(b) present the danger of brittle fracture due to low metal temperature during the test

(d) Unless specified in the engineering design, lines open to the atmosphere, such as vents or drains downstream of the last shutoff valve, need not be leak tested.

345.2 General Requirements for Leak Tests

Requirements in para. 345.2 apply to more than one type of leak test.

(16) 345.2.1 Limitations on Pressure

(a) *Reduced Test Pressure.* If the test pressure would produce a circumferential or longitudinal stress (based on minimum pipe wall thickness) in excess of yield strength at test temperature or is greater than 1.5 times the component rating at test temperature, the test pressure may be reduced to the maximum pressure that will not exceed the lesser of the yield strength or 1.5 times a component rating at test temperature. [See paras. 302.3.2(e) and (f).] For metallic bellows expansion joints, see Appendix X, para. X302.2.3(a).

(b) *Test Fluid Expansion.* If a pressure test is to be maintained for a period of time and the test fluid in the system is subject to thermal expansion, precautions shall be taken to avoid excessive pressure.

(c) *Preliminary Pneumatic Test.* A preliminary test using air at no more than 170 kPa (25 psi) gage pressure may be made prior to hydrostatic testing to locate major leaks.

345.2.2 Other Test Requirements

(a) *Examination for Leaks.* The leak test pressure shall be maintained for at least 10 min and then all joints and connections shall be examined for leaks. The test pressure may be reduced to not less than the design pressure while performing this examination.

(b) *Heat Treatment.* Leak tests shall be conducted after any heat treatment has been completed.

(c) *Low Test Temperature.* The possibility of brittle fracture shall be considered when conducting leak tests at metal temperatures near the ductile-brittle transition temperature.

(16) 345.2.3 Special Provisions for Testing

(a) *Piping Components and Subassemblies.* Piping components and subassemblies may be tested either separately or as assembled piping.

(b) *Flanged Joints.* Flanged joints used to connect piping components and subassemblies that have previously been tested, and flanged joints at which a blank or blind is used to isolate equipment or other piping during a test, need not be leak tested in accordance with para. 345.1.

(c) *Closure Welds.* The final weld connecting piping systems or components that have been successfully tested in accordance with para. 345 need not be leak tested provided the weld is examined in-process in accordance with para. 344.7 and passes with 100% radiographic examination in accordance with para. 344.5 or

100% ultrasonic examination in accordance with para. 344.6.

(d) *Instrument Connections.* Threaded joints, tubing joints, or a combination of these joints used to connect instruments to previously leak tested piping need not be leak tested in accordance with para. 345.1.

(e) See also Appendix F, para. F345.2.3.

345.2.4 Externally Pressured Piping

(16)

(a) Except as provided in (b) below, piping systems subject to external pressure shall be tested at an internal gage pressure 1.5 times the external differential pressure, but not less than 105 kPa (15 psi).

(b) As an alternative to leak testing under internal pressure, piping systems designed for vacuum service only may be subjected to a vacuum leak test method, technique, and acceptance criteria specified by the owner. The vacuum leak test shall be performed following a written procedure complying with the applicable technical requirements of the BPV Code, Section V, Article 10. Leak-testing personnel shall be qualified and certified as required by Section V, Article 1, T-120(e) or (f).

345.2.5 Jacketed Piping

(a) The internal line shall be leak tested on the basis of the internal or external design pressure, whichever is critical. This test must be performed before the jacket is completed if it is necessary to provide visual access to joints of the internal line as required by para. 345.3.1.

(b) The jacket shall be leak tested in accordance with para. 345.1 on the basis of the jacket design pressure unless otherwise specified in the engineering design.

345.2.6 Repairs or Additions After Leak Testing. If repairs or additions are made following the leak test, the affected piping shall be retested, except that for minor repairs or additions the owner may waive retest requirements when precautionary measures are taken to assure sound construction.

345.2.7 Test Records. Records shall be made of each piping system during the testing, including

- (a) date of test
- (b) identification of piping system tested
- (c) test fluid
- (d) test pressure
- (e) certification of results by examiner

These records need not be retained after completion of the test if a certification by the Inspector that the piping has satisfactorily passed pressure testing as required by this Code is retained.

345.3 Preparation for Leak Test

345.3.1 Joints Exposed

(16)

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) below, all joints, welds (including structural attachment welds to pressure-containing components), and bonds shall be left

uninsulated and exposed for examination during leak testing.

(b) Joints previously tested in accordance with this Code may be insulated or covered.

(c) At the owner's option, joints in Category D Fluid Service that are subject to a hydrostatic leak test (para. 345.4) or an initial service leak test (para. 345.7) may be insulated and have protective weather sheathing installed prior to leak testing. Consideration shall be given to increasing the test period to allow time for possible leakage to pass through the insulation and weather sheathing.

(d) All joints may be primed and painted prior to leak testing unless a sensitive leak test (para. 345.8) is required.

345.3.2 Temporary Supports. Piping designed for vapor or gas shall be provided with additional temporary supports, if necessary, to support the weight of test liquid.

345.3.3 Piping With Expansion Joints

(a) Unrestrained expansion joints depend on external main anchors to resist pressure thrust forces. Except as limited in para. 345.3.3(c), a piping system containing unrestrained expansion joints shall be leak tested without any temporary restraints in accordance with para. 345 up to 150% of the expansion joint design pressure. If the required test pressure exceeds 150% of the expansion joint design pressure and the main anchors are not designed to resist the pressure thrust forces at the required test pressure, for that portion of the test when the pressure exceeds 150% of the expansion joint design pressure, the expansion joint shall either be temporarily removed or temporary restraints shall be added to resist the pressure thrust forces.

(b) Self-restrained metallic bellows expansion joints (i.e., tied, hinged, pressure balanced, etc.) have restraint hardware designed to resist the pressure thrust forces. Except as limited in para. 345.3.3(c), a piping system containing self-restrained expansion joints shall be leak tested in accordance with para. 345. A self-restrained expansion joint previously shop tested by the manufacturer in accordance with Appendix X may be excluded from the system to be leak tested, except when a sensitive leak test in accordance with para. 345.8 is required. Restraint hardware for all types of expansion joints shall be designed for the pressure thrust forces at the test pressure.

(c) When a metallic bellows expansion joint is installed in the piping system subject to a leak test and the leak test pressure determined in accordance with para. 345 exceeds the pressure of the test performed by the manufacturer in accordance with Appendix X, the required leak test pressure shall be reduced to the manufacturer's test pressure.

345.3.4 Limits of Tested Piping. Equipment that is not to be tested shall be either disconnected from the piping or isolated by blinds or other means during the test. A valve may be used provided the valve (including its closure mechanism) is suitable for the test pressure.

345.4 Hydrostatic Leak Test

345.4.1 Test Fluid. The fluid shall be water unless there is the possibility of damage due to freezing or to adverse effects of water on the piping or the process (see para. F345.4.1). In that case another suitable non-toxic liquid may be used. If the liquid is flammable, its flash point shall be at least 49°C (120°F), and consideration shall be given to the test environment.

345.4.2 Test Pressure. Except as provided in para. 345.4.3, the hydrostatic test pressure at every point in a metallic piping system shall be as follows: (16)

(a) not less than 1.5 times the design pressure.

(b) when the design temperature is greater than the test temperature, the minimum test pressure, at the point under consideration, shall be calculated using eq. (24).

$$P_T = 1.5 PS_T/S \quad (24)$$

where

P = internal design gage pressure

P_T = minimum test gage pressure

S = allowable stress at component design temperature for the prevalent pipe material; see Table A-1 or Table A-1M

S_T = allowable stress at test temperature for the prevalent pipe material; see Table A-1 or Table A-1M

(c) in those cases where the piping system may not include pipe itself, any other component in the piping system, other than pipe-supporting elements and bolting, may be used to determine the S_T/S ratio based on the applicable allowable stresses obtained from Table A-1 or Table A-1M. In those cases where the piping system may be made up of equivalent lengths of more than one material, the S_T/S ratio shall be based on the minimum calculated ratio of the included materials.

345.4.3 Hydrostatic Test of Piping With Vessels as a System³

(a) Where the test pressure of piping attached to a vessel is the same as or less than the test pressure for the vessel, the piping may be tested with the vessel at the piping test pressure.

(b) Where the test pressure of the piping exceeds the vessel test pressure, and it is not considered practicable to isolate the piping from the vessel, the piping and the vessel may be tested together at the vessel test pressure,

³ The provisions of para. 345.4.3 do not affect the pressure test requirements of any applicable vessel code.

provided the owner approves and the vessel test pressure is not less than 77% of the piping test pressure calculated in accordance with para. 345.4.2(b).

345.5 Pneumatic Leak Test

345.5.1 Precautions. Pneumatic testing involves the hazard of released energy stored in compressed gas. Particular care must therefore be taken to minimize the chance of brittle failure during a pneumatic leak test. Test temperature is important in this regard and must be considered when the designer chooses the material of construction. See para. 345.2.2(c) and Appendix F, paras. F323.4 and F345.5.1.

345.5.2 Pressure Relief Device. A pressure relief device shall be provided, having a set pressure not higher than the test pressure plus the lesser of 345 kPa (50 psi) or 10% of the test pressure.

345.5.3 Test Fluid. The gas used as test fluid, if not air, shall be nonflammable and nontoxic.

- (16) **345.5.4 Test Pressure.** The test pressure shall be not less than 1.1 times the design pressure and shall not exceed the lesser of

- (a) 1.33 times the design pressure
- (b) the pressure that would exceed 90% of the pressure described in para. 345.2.1(a)

345.5.5 Procedure. The pressure shall be gradually increased until a gage pressure that is the lesser of one-half the test pressure or 170 kPa (25 psi) is attained, at which time a preliminary check shall be made, including examination of joints in accordance with para. 341.4.1(a). Thereafter, the pressure shall be gradually increased in steps until the test pressure is reached, holding the pressure at each step long enough to equalize piping strains. The pressure shall then be reduced to the design pressure before examining for leakage in accordance with para. 345.2.2(a).

345.6 Hydrostatic-Pneumatic Leak Test

If a combination hydrostatic-pneumatic leak test is used, the requirements of para. 345.5 shall be met, and the pressure in the liquid filled part of the piping shall not exceed the limits stated in para. 345.4.2.

345.7 Initial Service Leak Test

This test is applicable only to piping in Category D Fluid Service, at the owner's option. See para. 345.1(a).

345.7.1 Test Fluid. The test fluid is the service fluid.

345.7.2 Procedure. During or prior to initial operation, the pressure shall be gradually increased in steps until the operating pressure is reached, holding the pressure at each step long enough to equalize piping strains. A preliminary check shall be made as described in para. 345.5.5 if the service fluid is a gas or vapor.

345.7.3 Examination for Leaks. The examination for leaks required by para. 345.2.2(a) shall be conducted while the system is at operating pressure. It is permissible to omit examination for leaks of joints and connections previously tested in accordance with this Code.

345.8 Sensitive Leak Test

The test shall be the Bubble Test — Direct Pressure Technique in accordance with the BPV Code, Section V, Article 10, Appendix I or another leak test method that has a demonstrated sensitivity not less than 10^{-3} std ml/s under test conditions.

When the Bubble Test — Direct Pressure Technique is used

- (a) the test pressure shall be at least the lesser of 105 kPa (15 psi) gage or 25% of the design pressure.
- (b) the pressure shall be gradually increased until a gage pressure equal to the lesser of one-half the test pressure or 170 kPa (25 psi) is attained, at which time a preliminary check shall be made. Then the pressure shall be gradually increased in steps until the test pressure is reached, the pressure being held long enough at each step to equalize piping strains.

345.9 Alternative Leak Test

The following procedures and leak test method may be used only under the conditions stated in para. 345.1(c).

345.9.1 Examination of Welds. Welds, including those used in the manufacture of welded pipe and fittings, that have not been subjected to hydrostatic or pneumatic leak tests in accordance with this Code, shall be examined as follows:

- (a) Circumferential, longitudinal, and spiral (helical seam) groove welds shall be 100% radiographed in accordance with para. 344.5 or 100% ultrasonically examined in accordance with para. 344.6.
- (b) All welds, including structural attachment welds, not covered in (a) above, shall be examined using the liquid penetrant method (para. 344.4) or, for magnetic materials, the magnetic particle method (para. 344.3).

345.9.2 Flexibility Analysis. A flexibility analysis of the piping system shall have been made in accordance with the requirements of para. 319.4.2 (b), if applicable, or (c) and (d).

345.9.3 Test Method. The system shall be subjected to a sensitive leak test in accordance with para. 345.8.

346 RECORDS

346.2 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the piping designer, the manufacturer, the fabricator, and the erector, as applicable, to

prepare the records required by this Code and by the engineering design.

(16) 346.3 Retention of Records

Unless otherwise specified by the engineering design, the following records shall be retained for at least 5 years after the record is generated for the project:

- (a)* examination procedures
- (b)* examination personnel qualifications
- (c)* examination reports