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CODES & STANDARDS  
CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

TO: THOSE USING THE ASME BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE

SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON QUESTIONS INVOLVING CODE PROVISIONS

The purpose of this letter is to describe the procedure which Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code users should follow when questions arise concerning the intent of the Code provisions. These suggestions are supplementary to the information given in the Foreword of the Code.

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee does not approve, certify, rate or endorse any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity, and accordingly, inquiries requiring such consideration will be returned. Moreover, ASME does not act as a consultant on specific engineering problems or on the general application or understanding of the Code rules. The activities of the Committee are limited to the interpretation and revisions of, or addition to, the Code Rules. The Committee does not and cannot provide consulting services.

Mandatory provisions are limited to new construction which is to be stamped with the Code Symbol. Questions regarding existing installations should be submitted to the local, state, or municipal authority or the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

Questions concerning provisions of the Code should be handled in the following manner:

1. Request an opinion from your Authorized Inspector. If the question is an unusual one, the inspector may refer it to their home office which may be the headquarters of an insurance company or a state, municipality or provincial bureau. These groups are qualified to give informed opinions on most questions because of their familiarity with the Code rules and Interpretations.
2. If the Authorized Inspector or the Authorized Inspection Agency is not able to give you an informed opinion or if you disagree with the advice received, it is recommended the questions then be submitted to the Secretary of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee, at ASME.
3. In referring questions to the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee, please see Code appendices concerning preparation of technical inquiries to the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee.

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee desires to be as helpful as possible to the users of its Code. However, in view of the present size, coverage and wide usage of the Code, a question should be referred to the Committee only after the sources mentioned in Item 1 have indicated their inability to provide an opinion. If this procedure is followed, the Committee will be in a better position to rule promptly on those basic questions which properly should come under its purview.

ASME Conformity Assessment Department

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