

ASME PTB-8-2014

# Procurement Guidelines for Metallic Materials

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# PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES FOR METALLIC MATERIALS

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword .....	v
1 INTRODUCTION .....	1
2 SCOPE .....	2
3 ASME ADOPTION OF MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS.....	3
3.1 ASME Material Specifications.....	3
3.2 ASTM Material Specifications.....	4
3.3 Dual Marked Materials.....	4
4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS IN MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR VARIOUS PRODUCT FORMS .....	5
4.1 SA-20, General Requirements for Steel Plates for Pressure Vessels .....	6
4.2 SA-788, General Requirements for Steel Forgings.....	8
4.3 SA-961, Common Requirements for Steel Flanges, Forged Fittings, Valve, and Parts for Piping Applications .....	9
4.4 SA-530, General Requirements for Specialized Carbon and Alloy Steel Pipe .....	10
4.5 SA-450, General Requirements for Carbon and Alloy Steel Tubes.....	11
4.6 SA-703, General Requirements for Steel Castings for Pressure-Containing Parts .....	12
4.7 SA-480, Specification for General Requirements for Flat-Rolled Stainless and Heat- Resisting Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip.....	13
4.8 SA-1016, Specification for General Requirements for Ferritic Alloy Steel, Austenitic Alloy Steel, and Stainless Steel Tubes .....	14
4.9 SB-248 General Requirements for Wrought Copper and Copper-Alloy Plate, Sheet, Strip and Rolled Bar.....	15
4.10 SB-249/SB-249M General Requirements for Wrought Copper and Copper-Alloy Rod, Bar, Shapes, and Forgings.....	15
4.11 SB-251, General Requirements for Wrought Seamless Copper and Copper-Alloy Tube.....	15
4.12 SB-751, General Requirements for Nickel and Nickel-Alloy Welded Tube.....	15
4.13 SB-775, General Requirements for Nickel and Nickel-Alloy Welded Pipe.....	16
4.14 SB-824, General Requirements for Copper Alloy Castings .....	16
4.15 SB-829, General Requirements for Nickel and Nickel Alloys Seamless Pipe and Tube .....	16
4.16 SB-906, General Requirements for Flat-Rolled Nickel and Nickel Alloys Plate, Sheet and Strip.....	16
5 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS .....	17
5.1 Clad Plates.....	17
5.2 Limitations on Thickness, and Weight.....	17
5.3 Certification.....	18
5.4 5L SPECIFICATION FOR LINE PIPE .....	19
7 ASME CODE REQUIREMENTS.....	20
7.1 BPVC Section I, Rules for Construction of Power Boilers [2] .....	20
7.2 BPVC Section IV, Rules for Construction of Heating Boilers [5].....	20
7.3 BPVC Section VIII, Division 1, Rules for Construction of Pressure Vessels [6].....	21
7.4 BPVC Section VIII, Division 2, Alternative Rules [7] .....	22



7.5	BPVC Section VIII, Division 3, Alternative Rules for Construction of High Pressure Vessels [8].....	23
7.6	BPVC Section XII, Rules for Construction and Continued Service of Transport Tanks [9]...24	
7.7	ASME B31.1, Power Piping [11] .....	24
7.8	ASME B31.3, Process Piping [12] .....	24
8	FABRICATION EFFECTS.....	26
8.1	Forming.....	26
8.2	Postweld Heat Treatment (PWHT) of Ferrous Materials .....	26
8.2.1	PWHT Requirements.....	26
8.2.2	Test Coupons.....	27
8.2.3	PWHT Effect on Materials.....	27
8.3	Postweld Heat Treatment of Nonferrous Materials .....	27
9	MATERIALS DEGRADATION MECHANISMS.....	29
9.1	BPVC Section II, Part D [4], Appendix A.....	29
10	OTHER CODES AND STANDARDS, OR RECOMMENDED PRACTICES.....	30
10.1	API Recommended Practices for CR – MO Steels.....	30
10.2	API Recommended Practices to Avoid Damage in Certain Service Environments.....	30
10.3	NACE Standards.....	30
10.4	TAPPI TIPS .....	31
11	PAST MATERIALS PROBLEMS .....	32
11.1	All Product Forms.....	32
11.2	Plates.....	34
11.3	Forgings.....	36
11.4	Welded Pipe and Tubes.....	36
11.5	Castings.....	37
11.6	Use of Wrong Materials.....	37
12	VENDOR QUALIFICATIONS.....	38
12.1	Review of Vendor Procedures.....	38
12.2	Quality Control.....	38
12.3	Documentation.....	38
12.4	Materials Traceability.....	38
13	SUGGESTED MEASURES FOR ORDERING MATERIALS.....	39
13.1	Review of Materials Manufacturers and Suppliers' Qualifications.....	39
13.2	Documentation.....	39
14	MATERIALS PURCHASE SPECIFICATIONS.....	40
14.1	Additional Considerations.....	40
	Reference.....	41
	APPENDIX A: SUGGESTED Materials Quality Control Programs for Material Manufacturers and Suppliers.....	43
	APPENDIX B: SA-516, Grade 70 Plate Sample Material Procurement Specification.....	44
	APPENDIX C: SA-387, Grade 11, Class 1 Plate Sample Material Procurement Specification.....	46



## FOREWORD

The scope of this document is to discuss the requirements in the ASME Codes and in the ASME material specifications for metallic materials, to address the various issues that affect the materials, and to provide guidelines for evaluating materials manufacturers and for preparing materials specifications that include the requirements for procuring material for ASME Code construction.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Codes (BPVC) typically use ASME material specifications in practice, whereas, the ASME Piping Codes use ASTM material specifications. The ASME material specifications used in BPVC construction are based on the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), American Welding Society (AWS), or other international material specifications for metallic materials. The material specifications include mandatory requirements for manufacturing, testing and inspecting material, and may include a number of supplementary requirements, which are only used when specified by the purchaser. The specifications may also contain requirements pertaining to ordering and supplying of the materials.

ASTM and ASME material specifications generally do not include requirements that address fabrication effects on materials, except for statements that the material is suitable for welding construction. The BPVC and the ASME B31 Pressure Piping Codes do include certain requirements for fabrication effects, such as forming strains, tests on representative test coupons to simulate fabrication heat treatments, impact test requirements for materials and welded joints, and inspection requirements. Where these additional requirements are mandated by the ASME Codes, it is generally the responsibility of the vessel or piping designer/purchaser to specify these requirements when specifying/purchasing raw materials.

The ASME Codes and the various material specifications also do not generally include special requirements for environmental effects on the materials. The 2013 Edition of the BPVC Section II, Part D includes an expanded Non-mandatory Appendix A that describes various materials degradation mechanisms for materials that are used in ASME Code construction. Generally, it is the responsibility of the user or designer to identify service related material requirements for vessels and piping. It is the responsibility of the vessel or piping manufacturer to specify these requirements when procuring materials.

Frequently, ASME material requirements or service related conditions are not properly identified, or communicated between the parties involved during design, specification, procurement, and fabrication of vessels and piping. This document is intended to highlight common problems associated with the specification and procurement of material for ASME Code construction. The relevant ASME Codes in this document include BPVC Section I, BPVC Section IV, BPVC Section VIII, BPVC Section XII, B31.1 Power Piping Code (ASME B31.1), and B31.3 Process Piping Code (ASME B31.3). The information in this report may also be applicable to other codes; however, such other codes have not been evaluated for inclusion in this document.

## 2 SCOPE

The ASME Codes and material specifications include specific requirements for use of the materials in ASME Code construction. However, they do not address all requirements. It is the responsibility of the user to specify service related requirements to prevent in-service degradation of the materials. It is the responsibility of the vessel manufacturer to account for materials degradation during fabrication and to include all necessary requirements in the raw material purchase specifications for ASME Code construction.

The scope of this document is to discuss the requirements in the ASME Codes and in the ASME material specifications for metallic materials, to address the various issues that affect the materials, and to provide guidelines for evaluating materials manufacturers and for preparing materials specifications that include the requirements for procuring material for ASME Code construction.

Some of the sections in this document pertain only to ferrous materials (carbon steels, low alloy steels and high alloy steels) because many of the past problems have been related to these materials (refer to Section 4 and Section 11 herein). However, most of the issues and considerations discussed in this document also pertain to nonferrous materials, particularly Sections 12 – 14 herein.

