

A Clarification on Ball Valves for Use in ASME B31.9 Piping Systems

Code Excerpt from ASME B31.9:

“907.1 General

907.1 Listed Valves. Valves manufactured in accordance with a standard listed in Table 926.1 may be used in accordance with their ratings, within other limitations in para. 907, and within the limitations on joints in Chapter II, Part 4 and on materials in Chapter III.

907.2 Unlisted Valves. Valves not manufactured in accordance with a listed standard shall be used only within the manufacturer's recommendations as to service and ratings, and within the limitations on comparable listed valves, considering composition, mechanical properties, dimensions, method of manufacture, and quality control. Otherwise, the valves shall be qualified in accordance with para. 904.7.2."

Interpretation of the Iowa Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Board:

Valves, including ball valves, manufactured in accordance with a standard listed in Table 926.1 of ASME B31.9 are acceptable for use.

Valves, including ball valves, not manufactured in accordance with a listed standard are acceptable if the manufacturer has established suitable pressure/temperature ratings for their use, and if the valve characteristics are comparable to those of valves that do conform to a listed standard. Documentation from the valve manufacturer that the valve is suitable for use in the particular piping system shall be made available to the inspector. Examples of acceptable documentation include but shall not be limited to manufacturer's product data sheets, or manufacturer's written communication specifically stating that the particular valve is suitable for use in the specific system.

Ball valves conforming to MSS SP-110 that are manufactured from a material that is permitted by ASME B31.9 are acceptable for use in a B31.9 piping systems and on Section IV heating boilers at the temperature and pressure ratings established by the valve manufacturer.