



U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration



PHMSA - Office of Pipeline Safety Warren Miller



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SD/ND/WY Pipeline Safety Operators Training

OQ: AMSE B31Q

April 4, 2013



ASME B31Q

Why – to address 12 of the 13 issues determined in the OQ Public Meeting in 2003 that could not be settled with the additional public meetings

Who – All stakeholders involved – Oil & Gas Transmission, Distribution, Contractors, Government



The Thirteen Issues

High Impact	Med. Impact	Low Impact
1. Scope of OQ Inspections	9. Additional Covered Tasks	4. Criteria for Small Operators
2. Evaluation of KSA's	10. Extent of Documentation	5. Direction & Observation of NQI's
3. Re-evaluation Interval	11. Treatment of Training	6. Noteworthy Practices
7. Maintenance vs. New Construction	12. AOC's	13. Persons Contributing to an Incident or Accident
8. Treatment of Emergency		



ASME B31Q

Planned Outcome – A document that an operator could use to develop a program, no matter what size or type

- Initial meeting August 2003
- 32 voting members with over 200 providing support and information
- First publication 2006
- Second publication 2010



ASME B31Q

B31Q is an international standard

- Currently used in India and Mexico

Developed by “technical justification” – not regulation



ASME B31Q

- Differences from the regulation:
 - Scope is “Safety and Integrity”
 - New construction is covered
 - Requires program effectiveness
 - Training
 - Additional records
 - Evaluators



ASME B31Q

- A standing committee meets 3-4 times a year
- Address any issues leftover from the original development and any new issues brought forward by committee members or the public
- Changes due to technology or operations not currently addressed



ASME B31Q

- If you are using B31Q - Remember that the regulation addresses the four part test for covered tasks.
- Don't not delete an existing covered task just because it might not be on the B31Q list. You as an operator will have to follow your procedures but will be inspected against for compliance for both the B31Q list and any task that meets the four-part test.



OQ FORWARD

- The PHMSA/State OQ Team met in 2011 to review the latest version of the ASME B31Q Standard on Operator Qualification.
 - It was to determine if the B31Q standard addresses the “12 Issues” that were remaining in the gap after the public meeting. A commitment was made in the 2003 meeting to consider the end product for IBR.
 - A review of the standard was made and the team came to consensus for recommendations to PHMSA for a path forward.



OQ FORWARD

- A meeting was held with PHMSA HQ to provide the recommendations from the QO Team:
- One path was to amend the OQ regulations in part and IBR parts of the B31Q standard.
- A second path was to amend the OQ regulations.
- The third path was to IBR the B31Q standard in its entirety.
- The Team agreed that “No Action” was not a choice.



What is next?

No change is not an option.



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ANY QUESTIONS?

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