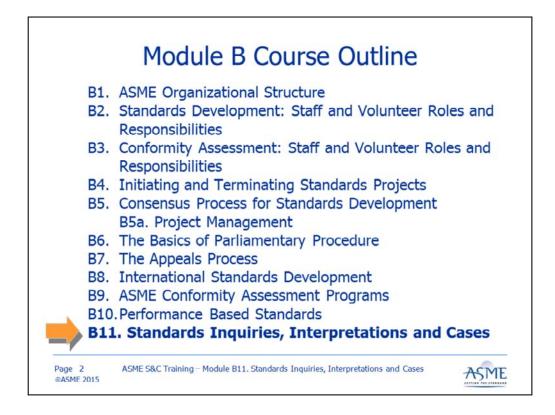
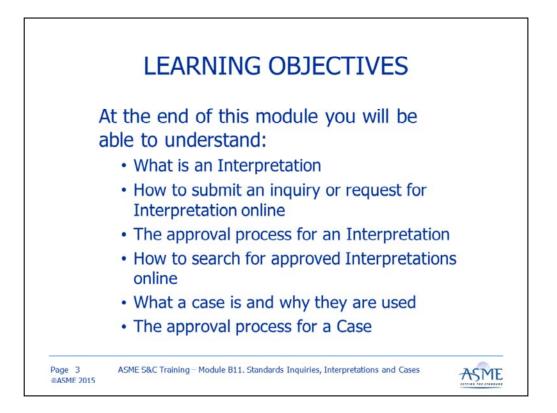




Updates				
12/7/2015	Revised slides 3-7, 9 and 16. Added Slides 8, 14 and 17-19			
3/14/2014	First Edition			

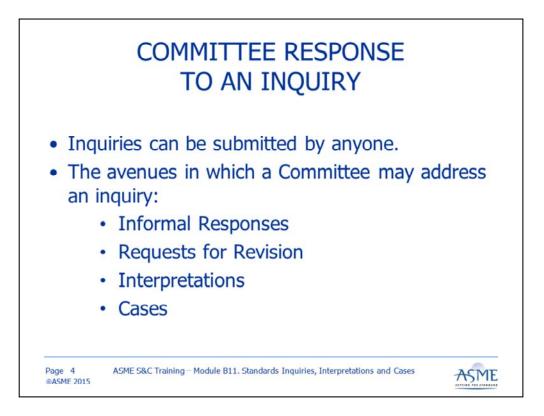


Module B contains eleven modules. We will cover B11 – Standards Inquiries, Interpretations and Cases.



At the end of this module you will know...

- · What is an Interpretation
- · How to submit an inquiry or a Request for Interpretation
- The approval process for an Interpretation
- How to search for approved Interpretations online
- What is a Case
- The approval process for a Case



- Inquiries can be submitted by anyone. This could include members of the public, users of the standards, purchasers of ASME stamped products, other ASME S&C committees, certificate holders, etc.
- Due to the impact ASME Codes and Standards have on various industries, there are a few avenues in which a Committee may address an inquiry:
 - Informal responses can be given by Staff Secretaries or volunteers. Informal responses could include referencing the inquirer to previous interpretations or other sections of the standard. The responses may be either verbal or in writing and should include a clear statement by the staff person or volunteer that he or she is expressing his or her *opinion* and not an interpretation. Informal responses are not given on ASME Interpretation letterhead.
 - Requests for revision to a standard, such as proposed technical changes, editorial changes or errata, are forwarded to the appropriate committee for consideration. These are addressed directly to the staff.
 - Interpretations are a formal response to a written inquiry and the response is prepared on official ASME interpretation letterhead.
 - Cases are used to provide alternatives to existing requirements, or to allow early and urgent implementation of a revised requirement.

For the rest of this module we will focus on Interpretations and Cases.



Interpretations should be submitted using the Interpretation Submittal Form online.

The submittal form can be accessed online at: www.ASME.org > About ASME > Get Involved >Standards & Certification Development Committees > Contact Committees or through the link shown here.

Note: ASME does not approve, certify, rate or endorse any item, construction, proprietary device or activity nor does staff provide consulting advice.

	Interpretation	Submittal Form		Search Interpretation
* Denotes required field				
1. Inquirer Information	Sample Interpretation Submittal Form			
First Name:*	Start typing	Last Name:*	Start typing	
Company/Organization:	Starttyping			
Address 1:*	Start typing			
Address 2:	Starthyping			
Address 3 :	Starttyping			
Country:*	United States	- State: *	[
Town/City: *	san heng	Zip/Postal Code:	Start typing	
Phone:	Start typing	Fax:	Start typing	
Em ail:*	Suntyping	Confirm Email:	Santyping	
2. Request for Interpre	tation			
Standard Designation:*	Start typing to filte		NOTE: if your question(s) applies	NOTE: Interpretations are not issued for the following ASM E Standards
NOTE: To salect, highlight the Standard Designation	A13.1 A17.1	A	(y) to more that one standard, select the most appropraite	A112.4.7 A112.6.5
	A17.2 A17.3		standard and reference any others	A 112.18.6 A112.19.8M
	A17.4 A17.5		in your inquiry	A112.20.1 *

Here is the Interpretations Submittal Form.

As noted here, the inquirer's name and address are required.

Standards designations must be selected by highlighting the standard designation so that the inquiry is directed to the correct staff secretary .

Note: if your question(s) applies (y) to more that one standard, select the most appropriate standard and reference any others in your inquiry.

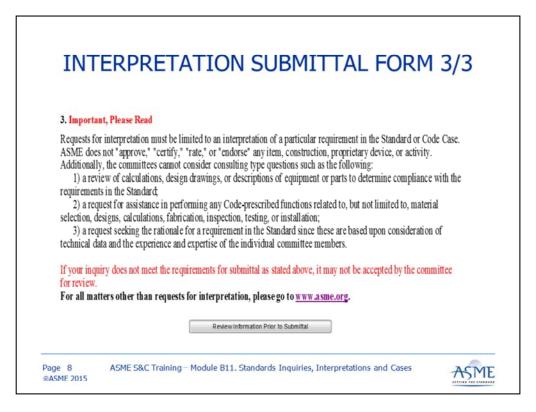
Edition/Addendar*		
Paragraph/Fig./Table No: • Enterre, number	Starttyping	
Subject:		
Enterbrief (1 or 2 word) description		
Inquiry(ies):* Please provide a condensed and precise question, omiting superfluous back ground information and composed in such a way that a 'yet' or a 'no 'reply is acceptable. Please ice the specific pargraph number	(x)	
in your questions(s).		
Proposed Reply((ies): Replies should be in the form of a Yes or No answer with explanation a meeded. If entering replies to more than one question, please be sure to number your question and replies.		
1		
Background Info: Please provide the committee with any background information that will assist the committee in understanding the inquiry.	*	

The second part of the Interpretation Submittal Form is where the inquiry, proposed reply, background and applicable editions are provided. The submitter should be as specific as possible.

For the inquiry, the interpretation submittal form gives guidance on how to submit your inquiry. The question should be submitted in such a way that a 'yes' or a 'no' reply is acceptable. The specific standard number, publication year, addenda (if applicable) and paragraph number must be submitted with your questions(s).

The proposed reply should be in the form of a Yes or No answer with explanation as needed. If entering replies to more than one question, please be sure to number your questions and replies.

Background information can be added that will assist the committee in understanding the inquiry and an attachment can be added.



The third part of the Interpretation Submittal Form is where guidance is given to the inquirer.

This section notifies the inquirer that requests for interpretation must be limited to an interpretation of a particular requirement in the Standard or Code Case.

ASME does not "approve," "certify," "rate," or "endorse" any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity.

The committees will not consider consulting type questions such as the following:

1) a review of calculations, design drawings, or descriptions of equipment or parts to determine compliance with the

requirements in the Standard;

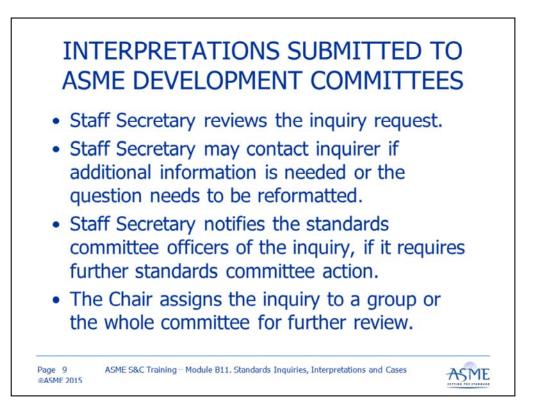
2) a request for assistance in performing any Code-prescribed functions related to, but not limited to, material

selection, designs, calculations, fabrication, inspection, testing, or installation;

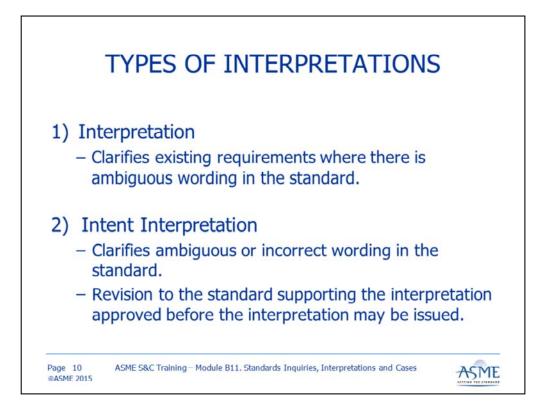
3) a request seeking the rationale for a requirement in the Standard since these are based upon consideration of

technical data and the experience and expertise of the individual committee members.

If the inquiry does not meet the requirements for submittal, it may not be accepted by the committee for review. Once the inquirer submits the Interpretation Submittal Form, an auto-notification will provide the tracking number to the inquirer for future reference. An additional auto-notification also informs the Staff Secretary of the submittal.



- After the Staff Secretary receives the inquiry, the Staff Secretary reviews the inquiry request to determine if it is
 - 1. A valid Interpretation (we will cover examples of inappropriate requests)
 - 2. The question is already covered in the standard
 - 3. The question has been previously answered or
 - 4. The interpretation or case is in the correct format.
- The Secretary may contact the inquirer if there are any questions and will notify the standards committee Officers of the inquiry, if further standards committee action is required.
- Staff Secretary then notifies the standards committee officers of the inquiry, if it requires further standards committee action.
- The standards committee Chair assigns the inquiry to a group or the whole committee for further review.



There are 2 types of interpretations:

- 1. An interpretation clarifies existing code requirements where there is ambiguous wording in the standard.
- 2. An Intent Interpretation clarifies or corrects ambiguous wording in the code and results in a revision to standard. The standard revision is approved by the Consensus Committee before the interpretation response letter may be issued.

Note: Not all Committees respond to interpretation requests. Committees that do will state it in their supplemental procedures. The C&S Connect Interpretation Submittal Form identifies which standards committees do not issue interpretations.



Interpretations are approved in accordance with ANSI Accredited Procedures and committee supplemental procedures. Depending on the committee, they could be approved by:

- Consensus Committee
- Cognizant Subcommittee
- OR
- A Special Committee

No member interest category shall have a majority on any Cognizant Subcommittee or Special Committee approving an Interpretation.

Board and ANSI approval is not needed for interpretations, except for changes to the standard that would be included as part of an intent interpretation.



Voters are given three voting options: No Objection, Objection, Not Voting. An objection must provide written justification and alternative action that will resolve their objection.

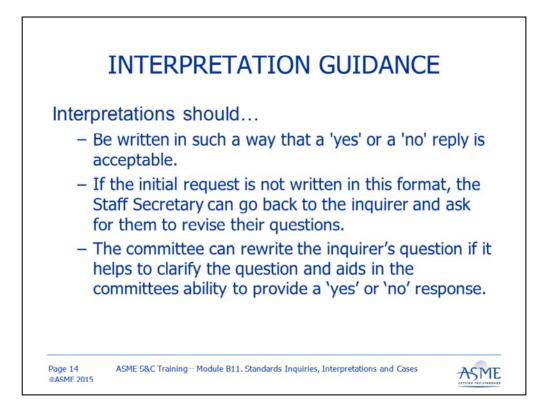
Vote taken at a meeting requires no objection by at least 2/3 of those present and eligible to vote for the interpretation to pass, if a quorum is present.

For ballot vote, the proposal passes on first consideration when there are no objections and no additional revisions. If not, a recirculation ballot will be issued, where no objection by at least two thirds of members voting is required to approve the interpretation.



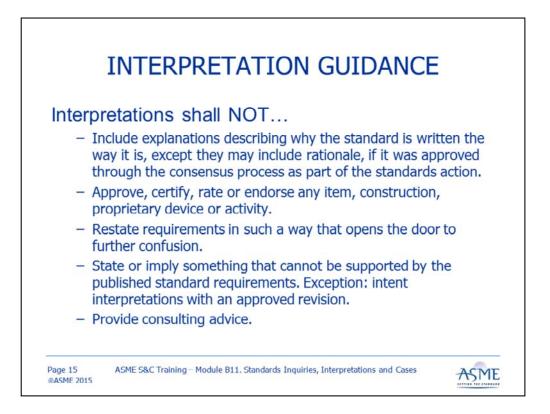
Another option for approving interpretations is by a Special Committee.

- Special Committees must have at least five members, one of which shall be the Staff Secretary responsible for the standard.
- It's membership must be from the consensus committee or a subordinate group.
- Special Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Standards Committee or cognizant subcommittee.
- No member interest category can have a majority on the Special Committee.
- Voters are only provided 2 voting options: Objection and No Objections
- <u>All</u> members including Staff Secretary must vote no objection for interpretation to be approved
- Unresolvable objections should be referred to the Consensus Committee or Cognizant Subcommittee.



When the Interpretations are being considered by the committees, they should consider the following when developing the reply...

- Be written in such a way that a 'yes' or a 'no' reply is acceptable.
- If the initial request is not written in this format the Secretary can go back to the inquirer and ask for them to revise their questions.
- The committee can rewrite the inquirer's question if it helps to clarify the question and aids in the committees ability to provide a 'yes' or 'no' response.

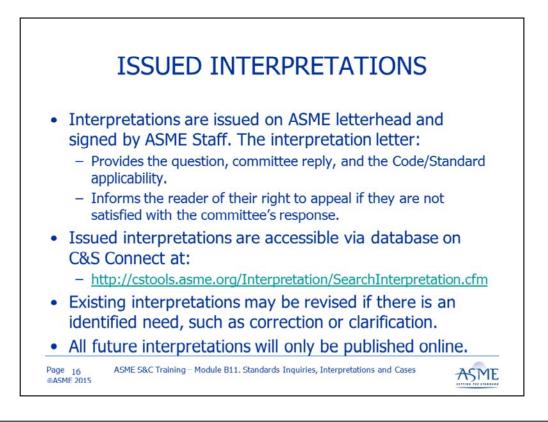


Interpretations shall NOT...

- Include explanations describing why the standard is written the way it is, except they may include rationale if it was approved through the consensus process as part of the standards action. (Note that most standards committees do not approve rationale.)
- Approve, certify, rate or endorse any item, construction, proprietary device or activity
- Restate requirements in such a way that opens the door to further confusion.
- State or imply something that cannot be supported by the published standard requirement. The exception to this in the case of intent interpretations where the revision must be approved before the committee can publish the interpretation.
- Consider consulting type questions such as the following:
 1) a review of calculations, design drawings, or descriptions of equipment or parts to determine compliance with the requirements in the Standard;

2) a request for assistance in performing any Code-prescribed functions related to, but not limited to, material selection, designs, calculations, fabrication, inspection, testing, or installation;

3) a request seeking the rationale for a requirement in the Standard since these are based upon consideration of technical data and the experience and expertise of the individual committee members.



Committee issued interpretations are transmitted on ASME letterhead and signed by ASME Staff.

- The letter will include the question, committee reply, and the code or standard edition applicability or the publication the question is in reference to.
- The letter will also inform the reader of their right to appeal if they are not satisfied with the committee's response.
- Once approved, the question and reply with applicability will be accessible via the database on C&S Connect
- Existing interpretations may be revised if there is an identified need, such as a correction or clarification.
- In the future, interpretations will only be published online. Historical interpretations may be available through a committee's web page.

ASME Interpretations Data	ibate Submit Interpretation
Search for Unseel Difference in the protection in the ADMI reduce in and the the search of the ADMI reduce in and the ADMI reduce	OR Check the status of your Pending Interpretation

Here is the Interpretations Search Form. This form can be accessed through the URL on the previous page.

To search for issued interpretations, you can use any of the fields to locate interpretations

- Search by standards designation start typing the standard designator, then highlight the standard
- Record #
- Historical or Interpretation number
- Edition
- Subject
- Dates of issuance range or
- Keyword.

The check the Status of your pending interpretation box on the right hand side allows inquirers who are outside the committee to have access to the status of their pending interpretation. The record number was sent to the inquirer when the interpretation was submitted.

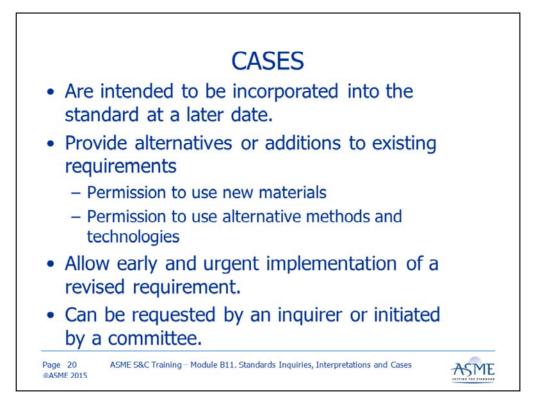
INTERPRETATION SEARCH FORM 2/3

		a	South Inter	rpretations Database	Subm	uit Interpretation
					2000	in marpreadou
Search Results: 382 Record(s) Found						
Standard 🖨	Record # 🛊	Historical Interpretation #	Edition \$	Subject 🛊	Date of Issuance 🖨	Select Interpretation to be Displayed
B31.1		1-17		Size Limitations for Couplings in paragraph 104.3.1.	08/18/80	
B31.1		1-16		Paragraph 136.4.2: Visual Examination	07/28/80	
B31.1		1-15		Paragraph 123.2.8: Nonmetallic Pipe	07/28/80	
B31.1		1-14		Paragraph 104.3.1 (D.2.2): Reinforcement Area in Branch Connections	07/22/80	

The resulting matches that are found will be displayed as shown above. You can click on the Subject to view the interpretation. If you wish to view multiple interpretations, click the boxes under the "Select Interpretation to be Displayed" column and click on the "display selected interpretation" button at the bottom of the page.

INTER	RPRETAT	ION SEARCH FO	RM 3/3
	Inte	erpretation Detail parts for	
	Standard Designation: Edition (Addendar Pars, Tig., Table Soc Subject Description: Date Tomot: Record Number: Horaris all Respection numbers : Question() and Reply(bri):	B1.1 2007-0014 Table 32-2.1 Table 32-2.1 Pressure Safety Value 60/22-2015 14-800 Question 1. The second lase of Table 82-2.1 says that it is for Saturned Simus hot example 33-31.1, a fire yapper later, sees this lase for superficient draws. In the because the values in the table are based on the safety value outlier conditions are support to the air and on the safety value outlier conditions are support to the air and to and on the safety value outlier conditions are support to the air and the are based on the safety value outlier conditions are support to the air and the and on the safety value outlier conditions are support to the air and conditions? Regist 1 Yee Question 3. And the values of a and b prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas value of the tables of a and b prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of and by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of and by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a and by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the values of a safe by prevented in Table 33-2.1 only valid for areas values of the val	
	Standard Devignation: Editors (Advants: Pars, Fig. 7 Jule Net: Subject Developines: Data Issued: Record Number: Horocical Interpretation scambers : Question(c) and Repby(int):	B31.1 2004 13.4.2 Visual Examination 0.15.2013 13.40 Questions Per B31.1 - 3004, would a weld pervisionly examined, accepted and documented in accountance with perspersed 13.4.2. (Visual Examination) where the D3 surface of the weld become ready accessible during molecular dD surface of the weld become ready accessible during molecular dD surface of the weld become ready accessible during molecular dd become institutions, activities require re-examinations? Reply: No.	

The interpretation details will then be displayed as shown above. To download the interpretations into a PDF file, click on the "Print to PDF" at the top of the sheet.



Cases are intended to be incorporated into the standard at a later date.

Cases provide alternatives to existing requirements. For example, a Case may permit the use of new material or alternate methods and technologies

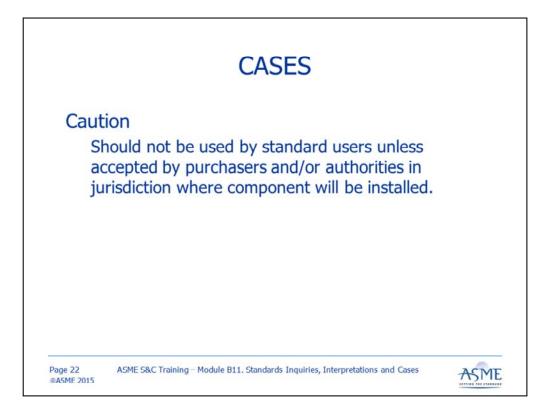
Cases can also allow early implementation of any urgent revision because it is usually faster to generate a case than to revise the code or standard and wait for it to be published in the next new edition.

Cases can be requested directly by an inquirer or initiated by a committee.



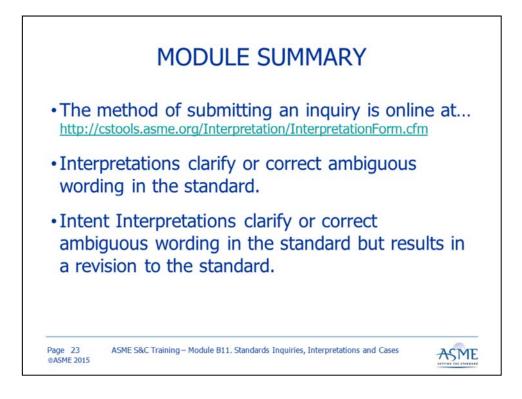
Characteristics:

- · Cases are presented in an "inquiry and reply" format.
- Cases clearly state the conditions under which the case may be used.
- Cases require Consensus Committee approval, Supervisory Board approval, but do not require ANSI Approval.
- Cases may be used as soon as they receive Supervisory Board approval.
- · Cases are not automatically included as part of the requirements.
- Committees which develop requirements associated with accreditation or certification programs are responsible for notifying the Conformity Assessment Department when proposed revisions or Cases may affect those activities. This will be discussed more fully in Module B9 – ASME Conformity Assessment Programs.



Caution:

Users of a standard are cautioned against making use of Cases without having the assurance that they have been accepted by the purchaser and/or the proper authorities in the jurisdiction where the component is to be installed.



In summary:

• The highly preferred method of submitting an inquiry is online at...

http://cstools.asme.org/Interpretation/InterpretationForm.cfm

- Interpretations clarify or correct ambiguous wording in the standard.
- Intent Interpretations clarify or correct ambiguous wording in the standard but results in a revision to standard.



- Interpretations are approved by The Consensus Committee, Cognizant Subcommittee or Special Committee.
- Code cases are used to provide alternatives to existing requirements, or to allow early and urgent implementation of a revised requirement.
- Cases require Consensus Committee and Supervisory Board approval, but do not require ANSI approval.

