

Calculations for Pressure-Containing Equipment

New Draft Standard under Subcommittee 6 John H. Fowler, P. E. – Owner, On-Line Resources

History and Objective

- API 6A, 16A, and 16C reference the ASME Code Section VIII Division 2, 2004 Edition, Appendix 4 as one acceptable method for design verification.
- Since referencing an obsolete spec is awkward, an Annex (Annex I) was prepared for 16A capturing the method from that ASME Appendix.
- Subcommittee 6 proposed that the method be put in a separate document to assure uniformity.

Scope of Document

- Document covers calculation methods only.
- Applicable only to specified pressure containing components, i.e. bodies, bonnets, and end connectors.
- No material property requirements
- No quality control requirements
- The product specifications may also permit the use of other methods.

2004 ASME Code Requirements

- Methods were provided for linear elastic analysis, non-linear limit analysis, and elastic/plastic finite-element analysis
- Linear elastic analysis defined stress categories and allowable limits for each. Stress components were combined into stress intensities.
- Limit analysis assumed an elastic, perfectly plastic material and determined the collapse loading.
- Elastic analysis was based on the true stress/true strain data and was used to verify shakedown.

Task Group Charge

- Create a new API standard documenting the rules of the 2004 ASME Code.
- Problem: 16A and 6A use different allowable stresses.

Stress value	Spec 6A requirement	Spec 16A requirement
Max SI at test pressure	5/6 of S _y	90% of S _y
S _m for standard materials	$2/3$ of S_y	$2/3$ of S_{y}
S _m for non- standard materials	Lower of 2/3 S_y or $\frac{1}{2} S_u$	2/3 of S _y

Resolution

- The task group consensus was to use the rules of 16A, since going to the slightly more conservative 6A rules would penalize 16A/16C users who had designed to higher allowable stresses.
- The 90% of Sy used in 16A and 16C is the same as the limit in the 2004 ASME Code Section VIII Division 2 part AD-151.1(a).
- Using only the yield strength as a basis follows Section VIII Division 3 practice.

Changes from Annex I to 6X

- 6X is derived from API 6A, Annex I.
- Several revisions were made to the Annex I to clarify the requirements.
- The uses of limit analysis and elastic/plastic analysis were clarified.
- The requirement regarding triaxial stress (the sum of the three principal stresses) was clarified as to the calculation basis.

Items not covered

- Design of bolting is not included since it is covered in new bolt specifications (API 20E).
- Fatigue is not covered since only API 17D requires fatigue analysis.
- Material properties and quality control are not included since they are covered differently in the product specifications.
- Rules for non-standard materials are not covered since API 6A addresses this.

Status of 6X

- The TG finalized the draft and agreed it was ready for ballot.
- API edited the document into standard API format and returned it to the TG for review.
- After review the draft standard was be sent out for ballot by SC6, with an April 30 deadline.
- SC 16 and SC 17 solicited comments from their member companies, which were considered along with those from SC6 members.

Status of the balloting

3 Ballots needed

- First ballot passed, with four negative votes and over 150 comments made and resolved.
- Second ballot API to re-ballot since there were so many technical changes. Second ballot also passed, with two negative votes, and over 100 comments and resolved.
- Third ballot Again, because of technical changes, it was decided to re-circulate a third time. Third ballot passed with no negative votes and only 34 minor editorial comments.

Revisions due to the ballot comments

- An introduction was added to give background of the standard.
- Stress components may be combined using von Mises equivalent stress (vs. stress intensity) if permitted by the product specification.
- Removed the note that if the material has a high yield/tensile ratio a lower S_m value may be used. This makes the S_m determination exactly like in 16A and 16C.
- Vague language in several places strengthened to clarify mandatory requirements.
- An "Extreme Conditions" paragraph was added providing the "k" factor from the 2004 Div 2.

Follow-on actions

- After publication of the Standard
 - Specifications 6A, 16A and 16C should revise their design section to direct the designer to this new standard instead of the 2004 ASME Code.
 - This may require several changes in the body of the specifications.
 - Since 17D refers to 6A for design requirements, no change is needed, unless they want to permit the use of von Mises equivalent stress.
 - The 2004 ASME Code Section VIII Division 2 can be removed from the product specifications as a referenced standard, and Standard 6X added.



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