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**Guidelines
on
Terminology
for
Valves and Fittings**

Standard Practice
Developed and Approved by the
Manufacturers Standardization Society of the
Valve and Fittings Industry, Inc.
127 Park Street, NE
Vienna, Virginia 22180
Phone: (703) 281- 6613
Fax: (703) 281- 6671
e-mail: info@mss.hq.com



www.mss-hq.com

This MSS Standard Practice was developed under the consensus of the MSS Technical Committees 302 and the MSS Coordinating Committee. The content of this Standard Practice is the result of the efforts of competent and concerned volunteers to provide an effective, clear, and non-exclusive specification that will benefit the industry as a whole. This MSS Standard Practice is intended as a basis for common practice by the manufacturer, the user, and the general public. The existence of an MSS Standard Practice does not in itself preclude the manufacture, sale, or use of products not conforming to the Standard Practice. Mandatory conformance is established only by reference in a code, specification, sales contract, or public law, as applicable.

This document has been substantially revised from the 1996 edition. It is suggested that if the user is interested in knowing what changes have been made, that direct page to page comparison should be made of this document with the previous edition.

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FOREWORD

Valves and fittings were being manufactured in the United States for many years before the first standards were written. In selecting names for these products and their component parts, manufacturers chose terms which seemed appropriate to the configuration and intended use.

Uses expanded and changed, and manufacturers sometimes found that logical choices of terminology had been preempted by other products. The result has been that valves, fittings, and parts of similar configuration or intended use sometimes have more than one name. In other cases, the same name has been applied to assemblies or parts of different configuration and function.

The absence of a common statement of preferred terms has contributed to the variations of terms used by individual manufacturers.

This Standard Practice has been developed to serve two functions:

- 1) To assist the users of valves and fittings in communicating with their manufacturers.
- 2) To promote standardization in the usage of terms in industry.

The Standard Practice provides definitions of the preferred items, and provides cross referencing to the appropriate preferred terms for other commonly used terms. It is subject to the periodic review procedure common to standards.

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GUIDELINES ON TERMINOLOGY FOR VALVES AND FITTINGS

1. SCOPE

1.1 This Standard Practice lists and defines principle terms and acronyms widely used to describe general purpose valves and fittings. It is comprised of separate sections which contain:

- Acronyms for organizations whose documents are applicable to valves and fittings and a brief summary of the applicable area of interest.
- A glossary of terms used in valve and fittings specifications to describe design, operation, and performance characteristics.
- Abbreviations commonly used in the valve and fittings industry.

2. DOCUMENT SOURCES

A number of technical societies, trade associations, and governmental agencies in the United States of America promulgate codes, standards, or specifications that are pertinent to valves and fittings. Some are recognized throughout the valve and fittings industry, some are relevant to specific services, while others are applicable to all usages within a specific industry. Most of these organizations and their standards or specifications are designated by letters. The organizations most frequently referenced and their relationship to the valve and fittings industry are listed below:

- AAR Association of American Railroads – publishes design and dimensional standards for bronze valves and 300 psi pressure rating, malleable pipe-fittings used by railroads.
- ACI Alloy Castings Institute – publishes material specifications for heat and corrosion resistant alloys.
- ABS American Bureau of Shipping - publishes safety standards for shipbuilding, including specifications for valves and fittings used in commercial maritime service.

- AFS American Foundrymen’s Society - publishes information on casting methods, procedures, and practices that are basic references for product design, procurement, and inspection of cast products.
- AGA American Gas Association - publishes standards for approval, certification, and application of gas appliances and the accessories of gas appliances.
- AGMA American Gear Manufacturers Association – provides educators to the gear industry; publishes information and standards on gears, gear-cutting and gear-checking equipment.
- AISC American Institute of Steel Construction – provides advisory services to help choose and utilize the most suitable type of structural steel design. Obtains acceptance for new design and construction techniques.
- AISI American Iron and Steel Institute - publishes ferrous material specifications and test procedures.
- ANSI American National Standards Institute - provides a method for achieving consensus on standardization matters involving codes and standards developed by other organizations, that are applicable to the design, dimensions, construction, testing, and application of valves, fittings, and piping.
- APFA American Pipe & Fittings Association-encourages, contributes to, and cooperates in the development of standards for products within the scope of the association.
- API American Petroleum Institute - publishes purchasing specifications for valves and fittings used in the production, transportation, and processing of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbon materials.
- ASME American Society of Mechanical Engineers - publishes codes for the construction of pressure vessels and related appurtunances including valves and fittings.