

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE B31.3 CATEGORY “M” PIPING SYSTEMS**

On July 1, 2003, OAR 918-225-0315 regarding process piping systems became effective. The adoption of these rules clarifies requirements of companies using B31.3 category “M” piping systems (B31.3 systems), persons in the business of installing, altering, or repairing B31.3 systems, and individuals and inspectors working on process piping. Outlined below are the requirements as they pertain to appropriate licensing/certification, registrations, permitting, and inspections of B31.3 systems:

- ? A B31.3 system contained in a single facility is considered a pressure vessel and must follow the statutes and rules pertaining to pressure vessels and/or pressure piping. *(NOTE: This does not include any pressure delivery system or the “tool” used in the facility.)*
- ? Persons in the business of installing B31.3 systems must:
  - ✍ Be registered with the Construction Contractors Board.
  - ✍ Have a current Boiler Business License.
  - ✍ Have a current Oregon “O” Certificate of Authorization or National Board “R” Stamp.
  - ✍ Employ individuals certified through the division in Class 5 or Class 5-A certifications.
  - ✍ Obtain a required installation/alteration/repair permit for the installation of a B31.3 system.

*(NOTE: Boiler and non-boiler external piping as defined in Statute, shall to be designed and installed to ASME B31.1 and/or B31.9 Code. In all cases boilers and or pressure vessels are not exempt and must be installed by licensed installers and with installation permits.)*

- ? Owner/User companies using B31.3 systems may install, repair, or alter their own systems without an install/alter/repair permit. However, the owner/user must develop, certify and maintain a welding program meeting the requirements of the Boiler Specialty Code and approved by the Division as per OAR 918-225-0720. Employees of the owner/user installing or repairing B31.3 systems do not need to be licensed or certified but must meet the welding standards of the owner/user’s welding program.
- ? All B31.3 installations, alternations, or repairs must be inspected.
- ? Inspections may be performed by BCD deputy inspectors, special inspectors, or process piping inspectors who have passed the Certificate of Competency exam appropriate for the level of inspection activity they are engaged in.
- ? **It is important to note** that the inspection function can not be performed or provided by the fabricator/installer. As per ASME B31.3 definition, the Owner of the facility must provide the inspector.
- ? The division will be conducting random audits of facilities that contain Category “M” fluid service systems to assure conformance with the standards.