

FOREWORD

(This Foreword is not part of ASME B36.10M-1996.)

In March 1927, the American Standards Association authorized the organization of a Sectional Committee on Standardization of Dimensions and Material of Wrought Steel and Wrought Iron Pipe and Tubing for the purpose of unifying the standards of these commodities in force in this country. The American Society for Testing and Materials and The American Society of Mechanical Engineers were designated as sponsors, and the first meeting of the Sectional Committee was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 18, 1928.

The dimensions of commercial pipe in general use in the United States at the time conformed rather generally to those recommended by the ASME Committee on Standard Pipe and Pipe Threads published in 1886 (ASME Transactions, Vol. VIII, p. 29). On these standards an enormous industry has been built and the satisfactory use of this product proves the soundness of the original design and specification.

Increasingly severe service demands at the time of the Committee's organization had been met by using the nearest available pipe or tubing for heavier sections such as casing, mechanical tubing, etc., with resulting uneconomical multiplicity of wall thicknesses.

Subsequently, the Committee, with the cooperation of the industry, made a survey of existing practice as the logical starting point for the development of an American Standard. From this survey, a table was designed to provide a selection of wall thicknesses of pipe to cover the power piping requirements of industry where strength to resist internal pressure governs selection and was later expanded to include pipe diameters and thicknesses used in other industries.

The original intent of the Committee was to establish a system of Schedule Numbers for pipe size/wall thickness combinations which would have an approximately uniform relationship equal to 1000 times the P/S expression contained in the modified Barlow formula for pipe wall thickness as defined in the Appendix to this standard. The resulting Numbers departed so far from existing wall thicknesses in common use that the original intent could not be accomplished. The Schedule Numbers were then adopted strictly as a convenient designation system for use in ordering.

In all cases, the designer must base his selection on the rules and allowable stresses set by the code which governs his particular construction. The table is dimensionally complete for all sizes and wall thicknesses within its scope, but some of the larger, heavier wall sections are beyond the capability of seamless mill production and must be obtained from forged and bored billets or other sources.

The first issue of this standard was approved by letter ballot of the Sectional Committee in October 1934, by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers in November 1934, and by the American Society for Testing and Materials in February 1935. Formal approval was given with the designation American Standard "tentative" by the American Standards Association in November 1935. Subsequent slight revisions to Table 1 and the footnotes of the dimensional tables were approved and the ASA changed the designation to American Standard; the date of ASA approval was April 28, 1939.

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