

# Specification for Fire Test for Valves With Automatic Backseats

SPECIFICATION 6FC  
THIRD EDITION, APRIL 1999



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# **Specification for Fire Test for Valves With Automatic Backseats**

**Upstream Segment**

SPECIFICATION 6FC  
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# FOREWORD

- a. This specification is under the jurisdiction of the API Committee on Standardization of Valves and Wellhead Equipment.
- b. This standard covers the requirements for testing and evaluating the performance of API Spec 6A and 6D valves with automatic backseats when exposed to specifically defined fire conditions. For the purpose of this specification, an automatic backseating valve is defined as a manual or actuated valve which allows the stem to effect a backseat against the bonnet and isolate the stem packing, by automatic means, when exposed to a fire.
- c. This standard is not intended to cover end connections. These are covered in API Specification 6FB, *Specification for Fire Test for End Connections*.
- d. Other standards under the jurisdiction of this committee include:
  - Spec 6A: *Specification for Wellhead and Christmas Tree Equipment*
  - Bull 6AF: *Bulletin on Capabilities of API Flanges Under Combinations of Load*
  - Bull 6AF1: *Bulletin on Temperature Derating of API Flanges Under Combination of Loading*
  - Spec 6D: *Specification for Pipeline Valves (Gate, Plug, Ball, and Check Valves)*
  - Spec 6FA: *Specification for Fire Test for Valves*
  - Spec 6FB: *Specification for Fire Test for End Connections*
  - TR 6F1: *Performance of API and ANSI End Connections in a Fire Test According to API Spec 6FA*
  - TR 6F2: *Fire Resistance Improvements for API Flanges*
- e. Conversions of English units to International System (SI) metric units are provided throughout the text of this specification in parentheses, e.g., 6 in. (152,4 mm). Note that the comma is used as a decimal market for metric data. SI equivalents have also been included in all tables. English units are in all cases preferential and shall be the standard in this specification. The factors used for conversion of English units to SI units were taken from API Publication 2564, and are listed below:
  1. Length:
    - 1 inch (in.) = 25,4 millimeters (mm) exactly
  2. Pressure:
    - 1 pound per square inch (psi) = 0,06894757 Bar
    - = 0,006894757 MPa
  3. Temperature:

The following formula was used to convert degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to degrees Celsius (°C):

$$^{\circ}\text{C} = 5/9 (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)$$

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This Standard shall become effective on the date printed on the cover but may be used voluntarily from the date of distribution.

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Asbestos is specified or referenced for certain components of the equipment described in some API standards. It has been of extreme usefulness in minimizing fire hazards associated with petroleum processing. It has also been a universal sealing material, compatible with most refining fluid services.

Certain serious adverse health effects are associated with asbestos, among them the serious and often fatal diseases of lung cancer, asbestosis, and mesothelioma (a cancer of the chest and abdominal linings). The degree of exposure to asbestos varies with the product and the work practices involved.

Consult the most recent edition of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Standard for Asbestos, Tremolite, Anthophyllite, and Actinolite, 29 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 1910.1001; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Emission Standard for Asbestos, 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* Sections 61.140 through 61.156; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule on labeling requirements and phased banning of asbestos products (Sections 763.160-179).

There are currently in use and under development a number of substitute materials to replace asbestos in certain applications. Manufacturers and users are encouraged to develop and use effective substitute materials that can meet the specifications for, and operating requirements of, the equipment to which they would apply.

SAFETY AND HEALTH INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO PARTICULAR PRODUCTS OR MATERIALS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE EMPLOYER, THE MANUFACTURER OR SUPPLIER OF THAT PRODUCT OR MATERIAL, OR THE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET.

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# Specification for Fire Test for Valves With Automatic Backseats

## 1 Scope

It is the purpose of this document to establish the requirements for testing and evaluating the pressure-containing performance of API Spec 6A and Spec 6D Automatic Backseating valves when exposed to fire. The performance requirements of this document are intended to establish standard limits of acceptability regardless of size or pressure rating.

This document establishes acceptable levels for leakage through the test valve and also external leakage after exposure to a fire for a 30-minute time period, both before and after reworking the stuffing box.

The burn period has been established on the basis that it represents the maximum time required to extinguish most fires. Fires of greater duration are considered to be of a major magnitude with consequences greater than those anticipated in this test.

## 2 Description of Fire Test

**2.1** The valve shall be tested in the closed position with water with the stem and bore in the horizontal position.

**2.2** The valve will be enveloped in flame having a temperature of 1,400°F–1,800°F (761°C–980°C) average of two thermocouples, located as shown in Figures 1 or 2. No reading shall be below 1,300°F (704°C). The test set-up shall include 1½-in. cube calorimeter blocks made of carbon steel with a thermocouple located in the center of each block (refer to Figure 3 for calorimeter block configuration). For API 6A valves size 7½-in. and smaller, and API 6D valves size 6

and smaller, two blocks shall be located as shown in Figure 1. For larger size valves, three blocks shall be used as shown in Figure 2. Piping upstream of the test valve larger than one in. (25 mm) nominal pipe size or one-half of the valve nominal pipe size (whichever is smaller) must be enveloped in flame for a distance of at least six in. (152 mm).

**2.3** The burn period will be 30 minutes from ignition.

**2.4** The end connection piping-to-valve joint leakage (flanged, threaded, or welded) is not considered a part of this test and is not included in the allowable external leakage in 4.2, 4.4 and 4.7. For the test, it may be necessary to modify this joint to eliminate leakage.

## 3 Test Procedure

### 3.1 STEPWISE PROCEDURES (REFER TO FIGURE 4)

**3.1.1** Open valve(s) (Items 5 and 6) at water source, and any necessary vent valves (Item 17) to flood the system and purge the air. The test valve may have to be placed in the partially open position in order to completely flood the valve body.

**3.1.2** Close fill valve (Item 5) and test valve (Item 11), then close vent valves (Item 17). The piping system upstream of the test valve shall be completely water filled and the system downstream shall be drained.

**3.1.3** Pressurize the system to the appropriate high test pressure from Table 1. Maintain this pressure during the burn

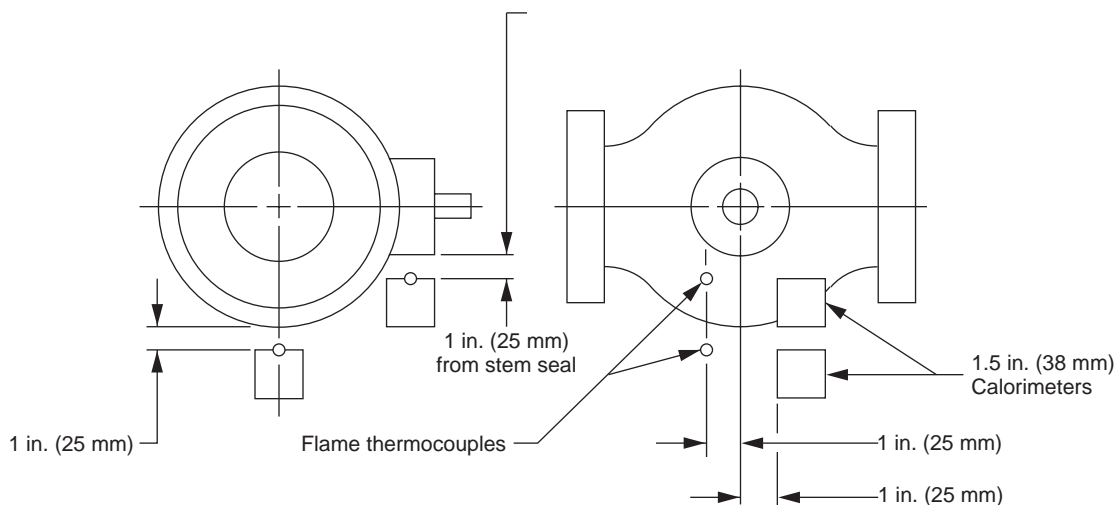


Figure 1—Location of Calorimeters Smaller Valves (Reference 2.2)



**3.1.9** Cool the valve (or allow to cool) to 212°F (100°C) or less. Record reading on sight gauge (Item 4), and calibrated

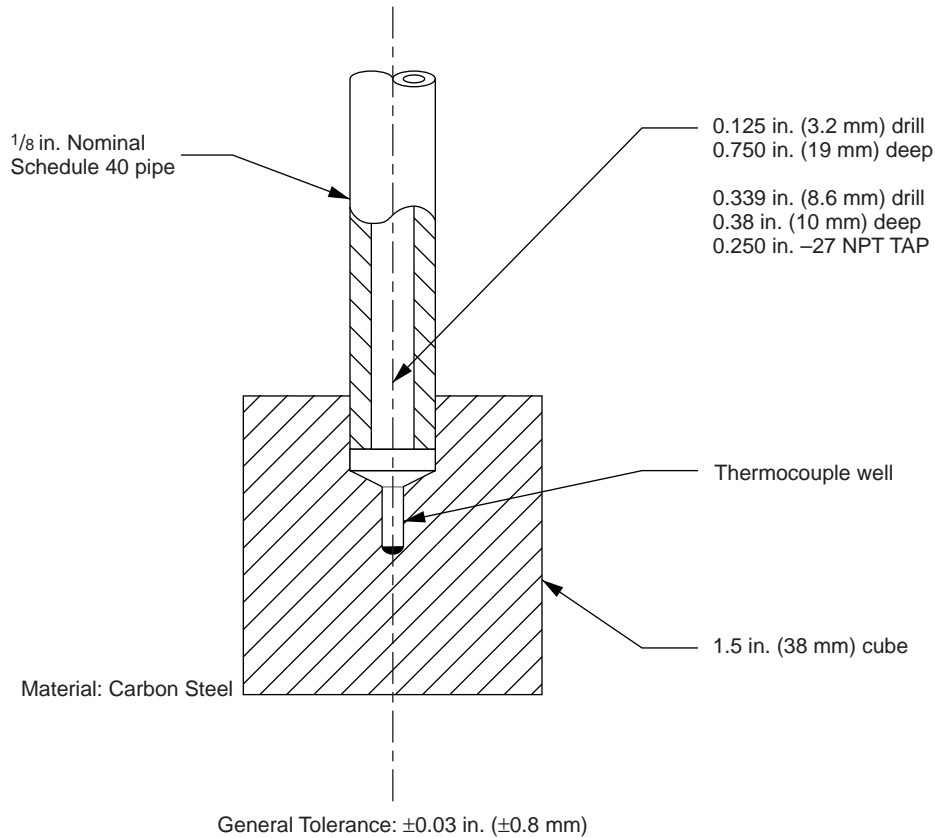


Figure 3—Calorimeter Cube Design (Reference 2.2)

container (Item 19). Cooling may, at the manufacturer's option, be natural or forced.

**3.1.10** The following low pressure test is required only for API 6D valves with ratings of class 600 and lower. Decrease the test pressure to the low test pressure value shown in Table 1. Measure the through valve and external leakage over a 5 minute period.

**3.1.11** If step 3.1.10 was performed, increase pressure on test valve to the high test pressure value in Table 1.

**3.1.12** Verify that backseating has occurred by monitoring for (and measuring) leakage at a test port above the backseat, for a period of five minutes.

**3.1.13** Rework the stuffing box as required, without releasing pressure. Rework shall be limited to replacement of packing and eutectic washer with parts of the same design and materials. Rework of the stuffing box may include the cleaning out of charred or burnt packing, and light honing or polishing of the sealing area of the stem and stuffing box.

**3.1.14** Open the test valve against the high test pressure differential. The valve shall be moved to a partly open

(approximately half-way) position. Close the shutoff valve (Item 16). Vent the piping and test valve body cavity to remove air or steam.

**3.1.15** Measure and record external leakage for a period of five minutes after valve is in the open position at high test pressure.

## 3.2 TEST ADJUSTMENTS

The stuffing box may be reworked per 3.1.13. No other part of the test valve may be adjusted during the test period. The test system may be adjusted during the test period to keep the test within the limits specified herein.

## 4 Performance Requirements

### 4.1 THROUGH LEAKAGE (HIGH TEST PRESSURE)—DURING BURN PERIOD

The maximum through seat (does not include bonnet and stem) leakage shall not be greater than the value shown below (refer to 3.1.8.):

Table 1—Test Pressure During Fire Test

Valve Rating				High Test Pressure			Low Test Pressure		
	Class	(PN) <sup>a</sup>		psi	(bar)	(MPa)	psi	(bar)	(MPa)
Spec 6D Valves	150	(20)	—	210	(14,5)	(1,5)	29	(2,0)	(0,2)
	300	(50)	—	540	(37,2)	(3,7)	50	(3,4)	(0,34)
	400	(64)	—	720	(49,6)	(5,0)	70	(4,8)	(0,48)
	600	110	—	1080	(74,5)	(7,5)	105	(7,2)	(0,72)
	900	(150)	—	1620	(111,7)	(11,2)	—	—	—
	1500	(260)	—	2700	(186,2)	(18,6)	—	—	—
	2500	(420)	—	4500	(310,3)	(31,0)	—	—	—
	psi	(bar)	(MPa)	psi	(bar)	(MPa)			
Spec 6A	2000	(138)	(13,8)	1500	(103,4)	(10,3)	—	—	—
Valves	3000	(207)	(20,7)	2250	(155,1)	(15,5)	—	—	—
	5000	(345)	(34,5)	3750	(258,6)	(25,9)	—	—	—
	10000	(690)	(69,0)	7500	(517,1)	(51,7)	—	—	—
	15000	(1034)	(103,5)	11250	(775,7)	(77,6)	—	—	—
	2000	(1379)	(138,0)	15000	(1034,2)	(103,5)	—	—	—

<sup>a</sup>PN is the pressure class designation utilized in ISO (International Standards Organization) documents.

Tolerance on all test pressures is  $\pm 10\%$ .

Burn Period            30 minutes  
Rate  
400 ml/in./min<sup>1</sup>  
(15,7 ml/mm/min)

#### 4.2 EXTERNAL LEAKAGE (HIGH TEST PRESSURE)—DURING BURN AND COOL-DOWN PERIOD (VALVE IN CLOSED POSITION)

The maximum external leakage, not including seat leakage, shall not be greater than the value shown below (refer to 3.1.8 and 3.1.9):

Test Duration            30 minutes plus time to cool-down to 212°F (100°C)  
Rate                        100 ml/in./min<sup>1</sup>  
(3.9 ml/mm/min)

#### 4.3 THROUGH LEAKAGE (LOW TEST PRESSURE)—AFTER COOL-DOWN

The maximum through seat (does not include bonnet and stem) leakage shall not be greater than the value shown below (refer to 3.1.10):

Test Duration            5 minutes  
Rate                        40 ml/in./min<sup>1</sup>  
(1.6 ml/mm/min)

<sup>1</sup>Leakage rates are milliliters per inch of nominal valve size per minute (milliliters per milliliter of nominal value size per minute), averaged over the duration of the particular test period.

#### 4.4 EXTERNAL LEAKAGE (LOW TEST PRESSURE)—AFTER COOL-DOWN (VALVE IN CLOSED POSITION)

The maximum external leakage not including seat leakage shall not be greater than the value shown below (refer to 3.1.10):

Test Duration            5 minutes  
Rate                        20 ml/in./min<sup>1</sup>  
(0,8 ml/mm/min)

#### 4.5 EXTERNAL LEAKAGE (HIGH TEST PRESSURE)—DURING THE BACKSEAT TEST AND REWORK OF THE STUFFING BOX

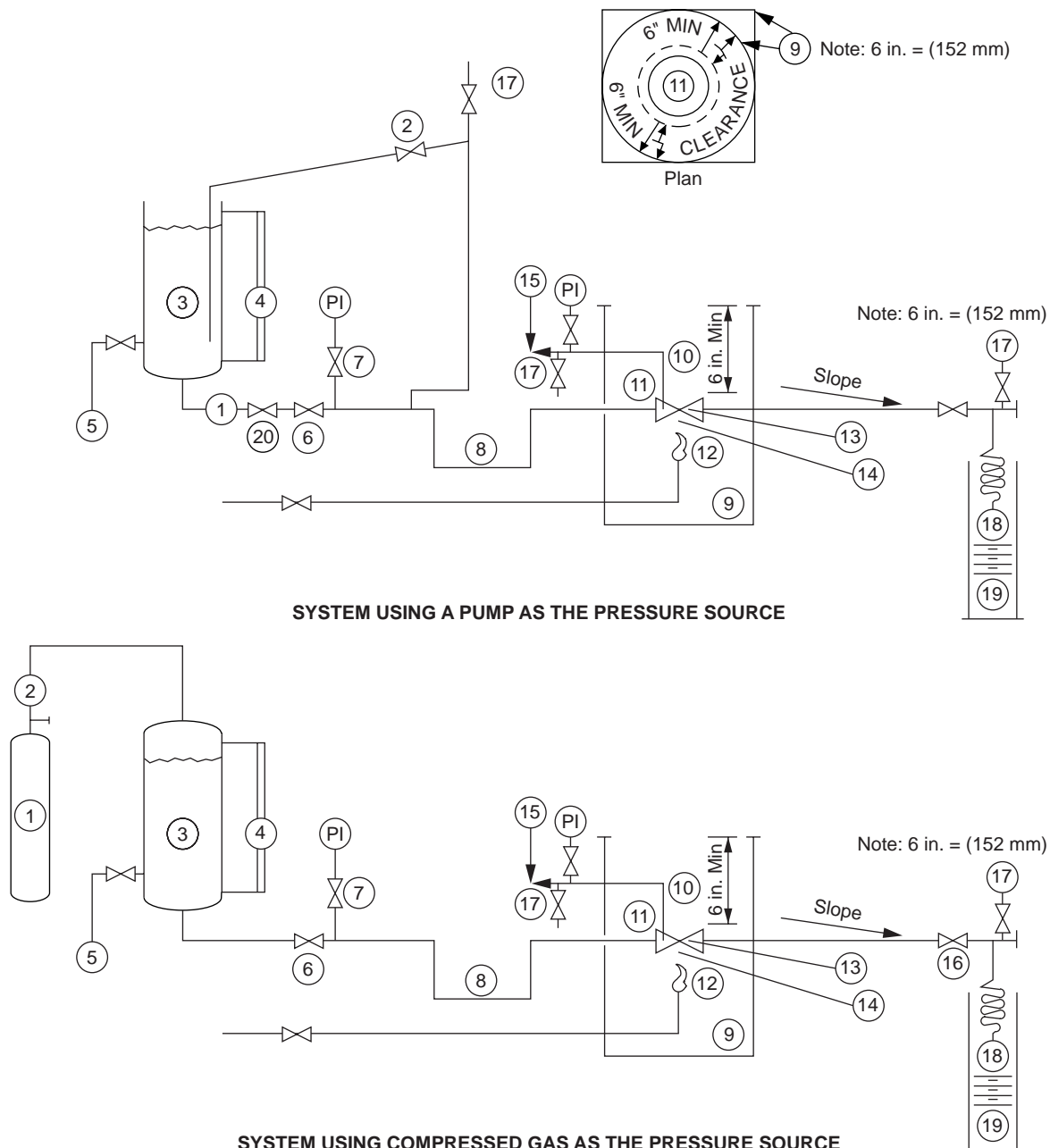
After draining any water which may have entered the stuffing box before backseating was complete, no leakage is acceptable (refer to 3.1.12 and 3.1.13):

#### 4.6 OPERATION OF TEST VALVE AFTER FIRE TEST

The valve shall be capable of being unseated from the closed position against high test pressure differential (Table 1). The valve shall be moved to the open position one time (as specified in 3.1.14).

#### 4.7 EXTERNAL LEAKAGE—OPEN POSITION

With the test valve in the open position the external leakage (as determined in 3.1.15) shall not be greater than 200 ml/in./min (8 ml/mm/min).



## Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Pressure source.  | 11. Test valve mounted horizontally with stem in horizontal position.                           |
| 2. Pressure regulator and relief.  | 12. Fuel gas supply to burners (Ref. 2.2).  |
| 3. Vessel for water.   | 13. Calorimeter—1½ in. cubes (Ref. 2.2).  |
| 4. Calibrated sight gauge.   | 14. Flame temperature thermocouple (Ref. 2.2).  |
| 5. Water supply.   | 15. Pressure gauge and relief valve (if required—Ref. 2.2) connected to center cavity of valve. |
| 6. Shutoff valve.  | 16. Shutoff valve.  |
| 7. Pressure gauge.   | 17. Vent valve.   |
| 8. Piping arranged to provide vapor trap.  | 18. Condenser.  |
| 9. Enclosure for test—horizontal clearance between any part of the valve and the closure shall be a minimum of 6 in. (152 mm). | 19. Calibrated container.   |
| 10. Minimum height of enclosure shall be 6 in. (152 mm) above the top of the valve.  | 20. Check valve.  |

Figure 4—Schematic of Suggested Systems for Fire Test for Valves

## 4.8 PRESSURE RELIEF PROVISION

The valve fails the test if the pressure relief valve identified in the provision of 6.2 activates. However, if the relieving device activates in the test valve, which normally includes the pressure relieving device as standard, the test shall continue and any leakage through this device shall be counted as external leakage.

## 4.9 TESTS REQUIRED

In lieu of testing each size and pressure rating of a given valve design, other valves of the same basic design as the test valve and same nonmetallic materials with respect to the seat to closure member seal, seat to body seal, stem seal, and body joint and seal, may be qualified, subject to the following limitations:

**4.9.1** One test valve may be used to qualify valves larger than the test valve, not exceeding twice the size of the test

valve (refer to Table 2). A size 16 valve will qualify all larger sizes.

**4.9.2** One test valve may be used to qualify valves with higher pressure ratings but no greater than twice the pressure rating of the test valve (refer to Table 3).

**4.9.3** The nominal size of the test valve is determined by the size of the end connections.

**4.9.4** Valves with asymmetric internal or external body construction (exclusive of the end connections), and/or asymmetric seats and closure mechanism, intended for bi-directional installation shall be qualified by conducting the test procedure twice, once in each direction of potential installation. Asymmetric valves intended for single direction installation shall be marked accordingly and shall be tested in the direction of recommended installation.

**4.9.5** Valves shall not be protected with insulation material of any form during testing, except where such protection is part of the design of the component.

Table 2—Qualification of Other Size Valves  
(Reference 4.9.1)

Size of Test Valve		Other Valve Sizes Qualified	
NPS	DN <sup>a</sup>	NPS	DN <sup>a</sup>
2" API 6D, 1 <sup>13</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> API 6A	50	2, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , 3, 4 API 6D, 1 <sup>13</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 2 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> API 6A	50, 65, 80, 100
2 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> API 6A, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> API 6D	65	2 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> API 6A, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , 3, 4 API 6D	65, 80, 100, 125
3 API 6D, 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> API 6A	80	3, 4, 6 API 6D, 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> API 6A	80, 100, 125, 150
4 API 6D, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> API 6A	100	4, 6, 8 API 6D, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> API 6A	100, 125, 150, 200
5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> API 6A	125	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 9 API 6A, 6, 8, 10 API 6D	125, 150, 200, 250
6 API 6D, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> API 6A	150	6, 8, 10, 12 API 6D, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> , 9, 11 API 6A	150, 200, 250, 300
8 API 6D	200	8, 10, 12, 14, 16 API 6D, 9, 11 API 6A	200, 250, 300, 350, 400
9 API 6A	N/A	9, 11 API 6A, 8 through 16 API 6D	250 through 400
10 API 6D	250	10 through 20 API 6D, 11 API 6A	250 through 500
11 API 6A	N/A	11 API 6A, 10 through 20 API 6D	300 through 500
12 API 6D	300	12 through 24 API 6D	300 through 600
14 API 6D	350	14 through 28 API 6D	350 through 700
16 API 6D	400	16 and larger API 6D	400 and larger

<sup>a</sup>DN is the size designation utilized in ISO (International Standards Organization) documents.

**Table 3—Qualification of Other Pressure Rating Valves  
(refer to 4.9.2)**

Rating of Test Valve			Other Valve Ratings Qualified			
Class	PN <sup>a</sup>	Bar	Class or psi	PN <sup>a</sup>	MPa	Bar
150 API 6D	20	N/A	150; 300 API 6D	20, 50	N/A	N/A
300 API 6D	50	N/A	300; 400; 600 API 6D	50, 64, 110	N/A	N/A
400 API 6D	64	N/A	400; 600 API 6D	64, 110	N/A	N/A
600 API 6D	110	N/A	600; 900 API 6D; 2 000; 3 000 API 6A	110, 150 N/A	N/A 13.8, 20.7	N/A 138, 207
900 API 6D	150	N/A	900; 1,500 API 6D; 3 000 API 6A	150, 260 N/A	N/A 20.7	N/A 207
1 500 API 6D	260	N/A	1 500; 2 500 API 6D; 5 000 API 6A	260, 420 N/A	N/A 34.5	N/A 345
2 500 API 6D	420	N/A	2 500 API 6D; 10 000 API 6A	420 N/A	N/A 69.0	N/A 690
psi	MPa	Bar	psi or Class	PN <sup>a</sup>	MPa	Bar
2 000 API 6A	13.8	138	2 000; 3 000 API 6A; 900; 1 500 API 6D	N/A 150, 260	13.8, 20.7 N/A	138, 207 N/A
3 000 API 6A	20.7	207	3 000; 5 000 API 6A; 1 500; 2 500 API 6D	N/A 260, 420	20.7, 34.5 N/A	207, 345 N/A
5 000 API 6A	34.5	345	5 000; 10 000 API 6A; 2 500 API 6D	N/A 420	34.5, 69.0 N/A	345, 690 N/A
10 000 API 6A	69.0	690	10 000; 15 000; 20 000 API 6A	N/A	69.0, 103.5 138.0	690, 1 034, 1 379
15 000 API 6A	103.5	1 034	15 000; 20 000 API 6A	N/A	103.5, 138.0	1 034, 1 379
20 000 API 6A	138.0	1 379	20 000 API 6A	N/A	138.0	1 379

<sup>a</sup>PN is the pressure class designation utilized in ISO (International Standards Organization) documents.

## 5 Certification

**5.1** Records of the test upon which certifications are based shall be available for purchasers review at his request.

## 6 Safety Considerations

### 6.1 PERSONNEL PROTECTION

Because of the possible design of the test valve and the nature of the test program, the potential may exist for a hazardous rupture of the pressure boundary components. Protection for test personnel shall be provided.

### 6.2 PRESSURE RELIEF PROVISION

Provision of a pressure relief valve to atmosphere to protect the body cavity of double-seated valves against potential rupture shall be considered. Determination of the set pressure is the responsibility of the test valve manufacturer. The set pressure shall be low enough to preclude rupture of the valve at expected test temperatures.

## 7 Equipment Marking

**7.1** In addition to the marking requirements specified in API Spec 6A or 6D, valves which have been qualified by this specification shall be permanently marked:

**6FC**

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