



**TOPIC: Refrigeration Pressure Test Requirement  
OMSC/11/#1**

**CODE: Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code - 2014 Edition**

**APPROVED: May 16, 2016 [Paul L. Scarlett] , Director**

**REFERENCE: Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code Section 1108.1**

**SUBJECT: Refrigerant Piping Pressure Testing Approval**

**QUESTION:** Can pressure testing of refrigerant piping for space heating and cooling systems in non-hazardous locations and occupancies be approved with photographs?

**RESPONSE:** Yes. The Bureau of Development Services (BDS) has determined that testing refrigerant piping may be reviewed and approved with photographs and will meet the testing procedures in OMSC, ASHRAE STD 15, and ASME B31.5 under the following conditions:

- A.** The piping to be pressure tested must be 1.5 times the working pressure. A photograph of the manufacturer's nameplate must be submitted to verify working pressure;
- B.** The piping to be pressure tested may not be located in a High-Hazard Group H occupancy;
- C.** The piping to be pressure tested may not be located in an Institutional Group I-2 occupancy that requires explosion proofing of electrical wiring, figures and apparatus;
- D.** Per AMSE B31.5 and ASHRAE STD 15, a test for 10 minutes in duration is required; and
- E.** Photographs of the gauges at the start and stop of the test with time and date stamps are required to demonstrate testing results.

The Building Official may determine witnessed pressure tests, instead of photographic evidence, are necessary on a case-by-case basis.