

Product Advisory

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Heat Numbers Being Added on Steel Fittings and Tees



Mueller® is adding heat numbers on steel tees and fitting forgings. This includes product lines such as Autoperf® Service Tees and No-Blo® Line Stopper Fittings. As shown above, heat numbers are represented as “X”s on the side of the products.

A heat number is an identification stamped on the forging(s) to trace back the origin of the steel used. The forging supplier stamps these heat lot numbers into the forgings so they can match up material purchased from a steel supplier to the mill certificate. A mill certificate details mechanical and chemical properties of the steel.

Industry quality standards require raw materials to be tested at the manufacturer and results presented in a report typically called a mill sheet, mill certificate or mill test certificate. The only way to trace steel back to its mill sheet is the heat number. A heat number is similar to a lot number, which is used to identify production runs of other engineered products for quality control purposes.

Signed into law by President Obama in January 2011, the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 provided the US Department of



Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) authority to examine and improve the state of pipeline safety regulation. Within days, PHMSA issued an Advisory Bulletin to remind operators of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities of their responsibilities to perform detailed threat and risk analyses that integrate accurate data and information from their entire pipeline system.

The advisory states that records should be traceable, verifiable, complete and clearly linked to original information about a pipeline segment or facility. According to PHMSA Administrator Cynthia Quarterman, “Traceable, verifiable and accurate recordkeeping in the pipeline world is crucial. It enables us to respond more quickly in the event of an emergency, as well as gives us a more accurate snapshot of the overall infrastructure.”

In summary, federal laws require the natural gas distribution industry maintain detailed and complete records, traceable to the source of manufacturing. Mueller is committed to provide our customers with high quality products, services and record keeping to fully comply with these requirements.