



Beginning January 1 of 2011, new ASME Section VIII rules for hydro testing commenced, requiring all safety relief valves in all sizes to be hydro tested at both the primary and secondary zones at 1.5 times design pressure. For valve manufacturers, this means that safety relief valves have to be built and hydro'd, then disassembled and cleaned, and then rebuilt, tested, and prepped for shipment. Essentially, for most manufacturers, at two to three times the assembly cost.

We at Flow Safe and our competitors must continuously make decisions to manage compliance to this specification as well as so many other moving directives in our industry to meet our customers' requirements and do so successfully without becoming non-competitive.

Some manufacturers may procure their valves from China, completely assembled then simply set in the United States and ship accordingly. In doing so, by accepting hydro testing and material test documentation at face value, they run the risk that perhaps these required functions may not have been performed.

We at Flow Safe, of course, make safety devices and can't afford to cut corners, and we won't. Flow Safe's position is to continue building our products with 100% integrity, focusing our attention on the material specifications and design specifications we must meet, even though they are continually changing in our industry.

When customers receive a Flow Safe safety relief device and/or one of our 9000 Series surge relief valves, each valve will have been properly built, meeting all specifications and materials and procedures as required.

Cutting corners may benefit a person and/or company in the short to medium term, but in the long run, it can end in devastating results.