Vacuum valves are in principle only permitted on tanks which are not hermetically closed. Vacuum valves on tanks with test pressures up to 4 bar are only permitted on tanks fitted with a safety valve.

Tanks with a test pressure of 4 bar are either to be closed hermetically or to be fitted with safety valves of certain properties. All tanks with test pressures of less than 4 bar must always be fitted with safety valves, respectively venting devices.

Vacuum valves always have a set pressure of at least –0.21 bar.

Thus there are no 4 bar tanks without safety devices which may be fitted with vacuum valves – except L4BH-tanks. L4BH-tanks normally should be hermetically closed, but are exceptionally allowed to be fitted with a vacuum valve (without safety valve) (see TE 15). This exception may not be transferred to other tanks of higher quality. All hermetically closed tanks of higher quality without safety devices, which are fitted with vacuum valves (e.g. L10BH-tanks) therefore automatically get the tank code L4BH, if they are considered as hermetically closed, otherwise assigned to tank code L10BN.

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This makes a supplement of the definition "N" in the tank coding in 4.3.4.1.1 necessary.

Proposal

N = Tank with a safety valve according to 6.8.2.2.7 or 6.8.2.2.8 and not hermetically closed; these tanks may be fitted with vacuum valves or controlled ventilation (autovent) valves/with vacuum valves.

or

Tank with vacuum valves without safety valve for tanks with a test pressure of at least 4 bar.