



Getting the Most Out of Your Control Valve: Why Product Training is a Must for Water System Operators!

Having Operation and Maintenance Personnel who have been properly trained on the use and care of automatic control valves can be the difference between having a highly efficient water distribution system and one that fails to live up to the needs of the consumer and the water company. It is especially important that the training includes plenty of hands-on time so that students become comfortable and proficient at servicing the control valves in their systems.



It's Good to Be In the Know

The benefits of a well-trained Operations and Maintenance team are significant! With comprehensive product training, water district personnel will be able to:

- Perform preventative maintenance and/or troubleshoot a control valve
- Understand the basic functions of a control valve, like reducing pressure or pressure relief, and other more advanced capabilities such as cavitation control or surge protection
- Know when and where accessories can be added to improve performance and longevity; for example: strainers to prevent clogged pilot system tubing or fluted valve stems to minimize mineral build up
- Follow a preventative maintenance program to ensure that their control valves are in the best operating condition possible, regardless of the age of the valve
- Gain a better understanding of system hydraulics and how control valves operate in a water piping system

Great Training is a Win-Win Proposition

From a management perspective, having Operations & Maintenance Personnel who do their jobs well is a key part of running an efficient water system and results in improved performance and greater equipment longevity – two goals that are likely to be at the top of the list for most water districts managers.

Where Can You Go to Get Control Valve Training?

Product manufacturers provide the best training and some even offer training at their factories. Attending factory training is a worthwhile experience! Most control valve manufacturers have been around for several decades and have significant water industry experience. They know their products better than anyone else. They are accustomed to solving problems and know ways to prevent common issues from arising by making simple changes to basic valves. Imparting this special knowledge to their students goes a long way in ensuring that they leave with the skills to do their job at a higher level than before.

Don't Underestimate the Advantage Of Seeing "How It's Made"

What kind of training activities the manufacturer uses makes a big difference between adequate and excellent product training. Aside from classrooms and PowerPoint presentations, taking students on a factory tour, featuring the machining and assembly of the control valves, creates a greater familiarity with the components they will ultimately service or replace: seats, discs, diaphragms and pilot system components, etc.

Time For Hands-On Training

The opportunity to disassemble and reassemble a control valve and pilot system is the single best technique that can be used in product training. The manufacturer should have workstations where students can put into action what they have learned during the presentation and discussion portion of the product training. A working pump and pipeline with control valves in simulated fluid control applications is the best scenario in which to teach students how to adjust and troubleshoot control valves in the field.

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Recognizing Student Accomplishments

At the successful completion of the product training, students are typically recognized for their participation either by receiving a Certificate of Completion or a Certificate of Continuing Education Units (CEUs.) Receiving "credit" is great but the best result of excellent product training is a having Operations and Maintenance personnel who are confident and proficient in their ability to operate and service the control valves in their water system.



Cla-Val Control Valve Product Training Overview

Cla-Val is a leading manufacturer of automatic control valves. In fact, Cla-Val products are installed in 107 countries worldwide. Besides making top quality products, one of Cla-Val's core strengths is a product training program unofficially known as Cla-Val University. In North America, Cla-Val University (CVU) classes are held at the factories in Costa Mesa, CA and Beamsville, Ontario, Canada. CVU students are typically Water Company Operations and Maintenance personnel.

CVU Class Overview

Students earn their honorary "Cla-Val product degree" by successfully completing two days of factory training. Classes are held in dedicated onsite product training classrooms or an onsite Engineering Training Centers. Hands-on training involves students working on actual valve installations in the training facilities or workbenches with product samples where they will put into practice what they have learned during the classes.

- **Factory Tour.** If training classes are at the Costa Mesa CA factory, a tour of two onsite foundries is also included, in addition to the machining and assembly areas.

- **Classroom Training**

- **Fundamental Design Concepts**

- **Valve Operation**

- **Hands-On Training: Servicing the Main Valve**

- Trouble shooting
 - Disassembly
 - Cleaning, repairing and repainting
 - Parts replacement
 - Re-assembly
 - Testing

- **Waterworks Valve Specifics:**

- Pressure Reducing Valves
 - Pressure Relief Valves
 - Rate-Of-Flow Control Valves
 - Altitude and Level Control Valves
 - Electronic Valves
 - Pump Control Valves
 - Value-Added Products that enhance performance and add functionality.



At the successful completion of the training, each student receives their CVU degree certificate and Continuing Education Units as appropriate to the particular course and location.

Water industry professionals who wish to attend classes should contact the Cla-Val Salesman or Sales Agent nearest them. To see a map with contact information, visit: <http://www.cla-val.com/find-representative.htm>. To learn more about Cla-Val Training and Seminars, visit <http://www.cla-val.com/training-seminars-product-education.php> to learn more.