



Summary

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| Industry: | Pharmaceutical |
| Application: | Valves |
| Actual Saving: | Avoided downtime |
| Payback Period: | Immediate |



Standardisation of Valves Across Plant Ensures Reliability

ISSUE

One pharmaceutical customer's utility services had many varying models and makes of valves and electric actuators installed. When a valve/actuator failed, a non-stock order was placed with varying suppliers with a lead time of circa 8 working weeks.

In addition to paying a premium price for the replacement valve/actuator the plant experienced a lengthy downtime whilst also encountering energy losses and major production issues.

An interim solution was usually found within approximately 8 hours of the valve/actuator failing and when the correct valve was delivered 8 weeks later the interim valve was removed and the correct valve installed. On average this occurred at least 6 times annually which meant production was affected for a minimum of 8 hours for each failing valve.

SOLUTION

ERIKS conducted a valve/actuator survey to identify the existing combinations of which there are in excess of 200 individual applications with 20 varying makes. Over the years they have been mixed and matched simply to keep the plant running.

During the survey each valve/actuator was cross referred with the individual manufacturer's specification and data to confirm the pressure, temperature and media limitations accordingly. On completion of the cross referral we were able to drastically reduce the numerous configurations of valves and actuators to a minimum level.

Our recommendation was to hold an initial trial stock of 2 way and 3 way control valves in a size range and 4 variants of electric actuator as each electric actuator is unique in performing specific operations.

The utility services surveyed have been 're-engineered' to ensure a valve/actuator standardisation across the plant, rationalisation will ensure the most reliable and cost effective valve and actuator combinations are installed.

Our recommendation also suggests that on each future replacement, engineers install an isolation valve each side of the specific control valve. If this recommendation is carried out future downtime on valve/actuator failure would be reduced to 1 hour maximum (assuming the recommended equipment is carried in stock) resulting in absolute minimum loss of energy and potentially no disruption to production.

OTHER BENEFITS

- Standardisation
- Increased uptime
- Reliability

FURTHER COMMENTS...

By implementing the above proposal the customer will ultimately enjoy huge cost savings as a result of reliability, compatibility & availability.

MORE INFORMATION

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