

## Ask the Expert

The Ask The Expert column will give readers the opportunity to have their valve concerns addressed, find out the answers to their pressing valve challenges and ask for feedback on application issues. If you have a questions that you need answered, please feel free to contact [s.bradley@kci-world.com](mailto:s.bradley@kci-world.com) with the email subject: Ask The Expert.

If you are an individual with extensive valve expertise that you believe the Valve World readership could benefit from, please contact our Editor-in-Chief to become a future featured Expert.

This month our Expert is Rodney Roth, Strategic Account Manager/ Stationary Equipment – A.W. Chesterton.



### Q What is the definition of “R” in Leak Detection and Repair?

**A** When analyzing the components of leak detection and repair (LDAR), it is important to consider the definition of each component. As we all know, the letter R in the acronym LDAR designates the Repair portion of a LDAR program. However, when we really dig in, we are actually re-tightening or re-torquing the gland flange bolts to make the first attempt at repair after a leak has been identified, not actually performing a comprehensive repair of the valve.

### Q Are there other concerns that should be considered when managing the “R” in LDAR?

**A** The management of leak documentation is important and required. However, more emphasis should be spent on preventing leaks before they must be managed. This can and is being done with the use of “Certified Low Leaking Packing Technology” when repairing, repacking or modifying valves. The installation of new valves considered to be “Certified Low Leaking Valve Technology” is an additional way to reduce the need to manage the “R” in LDAR. For those end users who are already operating under Consent Decrees, the use of “Certified Low Leaking Packing Technology” and “Certified Low Leaking Valve Technology” is required.

### Q What are some of the biggest concerns currently effecting repair as part of LDAR programs?

**A** It is imperative to understand the importance of training relative to all aspects of valve sealing when dealing with potential LDAR repair concerns. As the complexity of valve packing capable of performing to the required low emissions standards increases, proper installation combined with effective training of LDAR personnel and valve technicians becomes extremely important. Time and effort during valve packing installation is the best chance to reduce LDAR issues.

### Q What are some of the largest areas of concern relative to packing installation to minimize repair activity in an LDAR program?

- Proper inspection of the valve and components
- Proper measuring of the valve and its components
- Proper installation of the “Certified Low Leaking Packing Technology”
- Proper initial training
- Continuous improvement and training updates

### Q What processes should be considered when looking to effectively manage the R in LDAR?

- Establish work practices capable of keeping up with changing regulations
- Work towards preventing leaks not just fixing them
- Properly train field personnel for correct performance of “First Attempt at Repair”
- Use “Certified Low Leaking Valve and Valve Packing Technology”
- Define work practices capable of proactively reducing the likelihood of developing leaks
- Properly maintain valves as required by Valve OEM/Packing Mfg. warranties, LDAR programs and Consent Decrees

### Q With regard to Continuous Improvement, what are some of the things that must be done to effectively manage the “R” in LDAR?

- Adopt a best practices approach
- Make better/good choices
- Avoid shortcuts
- Continually train personnel
- Increase everyone’s knowledge through training
- Be proactive not reactive
- Be a part of the solution
- Reduce the potential of having the wrong product installed
- Streamline the storeroom

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