

Ask the Expert



We are pleased to introduce a new column to Valve World Americas. 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 question that you need answered, please feel free to contact 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 to become a future featured Expert.

This month our Experts are Michael Donoghue - National Accounts Manager for Forum Valve Solutions and Rodney Roth & Scott Boyson – Business Development Managers for A.W. Chesterton Company.

Q Is the Industrial valve community working to be proactive or reactive with regard to compliance with API 624?

A Top tier manufacturers currently listed and utilized on end user Approved Material Listings (AMLs) are most definitely pro-active in gaining compliance to this new industry standard. The API 624 standard is low emission type testing standard for rising stem valves. It cannot be met by simply installing high quality packing in valves to meet compliance.

Q Are major end users looking to valve manufacturers who are being proactive regarding Certified Low E Valve Technology more favorably than those who have chosen to be reactive?

A Yes. Low E Valve Technology has initiated a learning curve by both manufacturers and end users. The impact on a manufacturer to ensure their valve designs can meet the rigorous testing requirement and the end user realizing the changes required in installing this new low emission product has required considerable focus and testing. The utilization of API 624 certified products requires many additional considerations that will require training. The pro-active manufactures have been partnering with the end user community long before publication of this document.

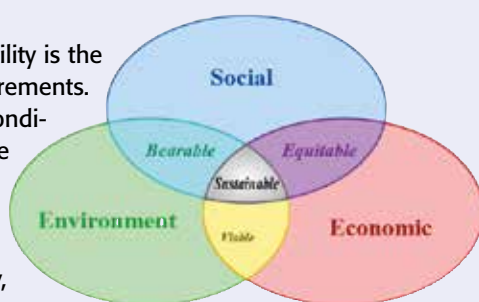
Q Is the move to Certified Low Leaking Valve Technology something to be considered as valuable with regard to the Sustainability of the Global Eco-Environment?

A Many corporations have a substantial impact on the communities that surround their sites. Slogans such as corporate responsibility and governance, "green" and being a "good neighbor" are seen frequently to promote the responsibility that companies would like to have as part of their decision-making process. However, trying to define and measure social responsibility is difficult for these companies. It is even more difficult to use it as part of the decision making process in plants all over the world. Sustainability is a new term that many large corporations are using to enhance high level decision making and drive that down to plant actions. It has an extremely broad scope and texture, but has enough flexibility to be used by numerous corporations around the world. Valves can offer impact many opportunities to offer these companies to assist them in areas such as energy efficiency, leakage reduction, safety and improved process reliability.

Q So what is sustainability and how are corporations using it today?

A Sustainability can be defined as the actions that use economic considerations combined with social and environmental elements to identify the best solutions for the organization and surrounding community. The best decisions are made when all three areas are evaluated and have a positive impact. While there are many actions that involve only one or two elements, the best actions for a corporation would involve economic, social and environmental elements.

One of the refreshing aspects of sustainability is the important inclusion of Economic requirements. Corporations must be in good financial condition to have a positive impact. They must be profitable to be able to make continued investments in their infrastructure improvements and create value for shareholders; which also contributes to a strong economy, while also investing in the surrounding communities. One of the most important economic benefits is that, by employing local workers, an organization has a multiplier impact in financial health for surrounding communities. Only a financially sound organization has the ability to upgrade the social fabric and the environment around it.



Environmental sustainability focuses on actions that do not deplete resources and leave the world in a better place for following generations. Saving water, replanting fields, reducing energy consumption, minimizing or eliminating waste are often focus

areas for plants. Increasing plant efficiencies with enhanced or streamlined processes can also be employed.

Social responsibility encompasses the idea that corporations have a responsibility to help people. One common areas of focus is in the area of health and safety of its employees. Companies should look to use best practices and technology to reduce workplace risks such as reducing leaks of dangerous fluids. Actions that promote workplace equality and rights, and contributing to the community are also often focused on. Educating employees to elevate their ability to work at higher productivity levels is another example of social gain. Major corporations are highlighting sustainability as a key initiative in their annual reports and are publishing sustainability reports. Companies such as ExxonMobil, Shell, Marathon, Dow, Petrobras, and BASF are heavily focused here as they strive to create better shareholder value.

We can have a role in promoting sustainable opportunities throughout the world, as we work with many of the largest corporations in the world and can assist them in reaching their goals. Sustainability-related issues are managed by several functions in corporations and we can assist all of them. From senior leadership teams focused on the environment and risk management, to staff at corporate, business unit and facility levels, we can help identify, prioritize and manage sustainability-related risks and opportunities. As suppliers, it is up to us to promote what we can do to help these companies in a sustainable way. It's good business for all involved.

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