

PLUG VALVE CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE

Plug valves require significant maintenance to continue running smoothly and efficiently. Poor maintenance can lead to the operating life of the plug valve being drastically reduced. Unexpected failure of the valve can have costly effects, causing unplanned downtime in order to repair or replace the valve and loss of production. Poor maintenance can also result in fugitive emissions, damaging the environment.

It is important to develop an effective maintenance routine for plug valves, provided by competent technicians. This type of maintenance includes the injection of sealant. Knowing the appropriate use of sealant/lubricant and best practice methods can help extend the operating life of plug valves, and save money in the long run.

A large oil and gas operator contacted Score Training reporting problems with leaking plug valves, and the effects of poor maintenance. At the time, Score Training already had a Plug Valve Maintenance course that was ready to deliver and its contents satisfied the needs of the customer.

The client required their technicians to attend the course to learn the best maintenance practice in order to improve their existing maintenance routines.



SOLUTION

Score Training's Plug Valve course provided trainees with an understanding of different types of plug valves, how these work and common faults encountered with them in the field. During workshop-based sessions technicians were shown the correct sealant injection process and given the opportunity to inject sealant into valves in a safe, supervised environment. Best working practices were taught in order to minimise the risk of leaking fittings and the release of fugitive emissions.

Score Training has worked with the customer over the course of ten years to continually train technicians in the maintenance of plug valves.

OUTCOME

Following roll-out of the training, the client reported improved maintenance of plug valves and an overall reduction in leaks. As a result, the client then made the course mandatory for all technicians. Score Training continue to work with the client to refresh their technicians every 3-5 years.

Attendee feedback has been positive with the majority commenting that they found the training really useful.

"Good instructor, very knowledgeable and answered all queries."

"Good facility, instructors' knowledge was excellent, a worthwhile course. Duration was perfect for type of course."

"Good course. Gained knowledge in all aspects of the training. Will utilise when offshore."