

# How to select a valve controller

Process manufacturers are faced with multiple considerations when choosing a valve controller or switchbox that will best meet their application needs. Key aspects to consider include product endurance in demanding application environments, agency certifications, ease of installation, maintenance requirements, and product support.

The following tips will help you optimize valve controller selection, as well as maximize product performance and value:

## Tip 1: Choose products engineered for endurance

Reliability and durability are extremely important when choosing a discrete valve controller. Today's valve controllers need to be rugged to

withstand demanding plant conditions. Look for products that have been tested for endurance in extreme hot and cold temperatures and are proven to resist deterioration or chipping, even in corrosive environments or abusive conditions.

Reputable manufacturers will provide endurance testing for millions of cycles to ensure that product performance is reliable. Choosing products that are tested tough increases life-cycle performance and reduces potential replacement or maintenance costs. Endurance tests may include testing in dust chambers to ensure the product is dust tight, testing against intense water pressure blasts, or even complete submersion.

Products should be tested against hundreds of corrosive and caustic chemicals with various exposure times, temperatures, and concentrations, and need to be proven impact- and step resistant. It is important to understand how a product performs in extreme conditions to have confidence that it has been designed for durability.

Standard materials of construction should include aluminum, stainless steel, and engineered resin enclosures, and options for special coating to handle unusually harsh environments. Ideally, seek suppliers that proactively design products to pass the intense testing criteria of the various major certification agencies, and have the vision to anticipate trends and future requirements.

## Valves India

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