

Case Study

Manual Handling: Accessing Valves in Restricted Space

Issue: Difficulty opening valves in confined areas such as stairwells.

Task Analysis

The management and staff were consulted and their main issues noted.

Issues and observations included:

- Valves can be operated by one hand when 51-102mm in diameter
- Larger valves to be opened by two hands
- Poor postures in restricted environments are used to open valves
- Occasionally operator must reach across hot pipes to access valves



Model Recommendations

The proposed solutions included:

1. Ensure all future valve installation considers operator
2. Install larger valve wheels to reduce operator effort
3. Move valve location to reduce need to stand on adjacent structures
4. Where valves are critical in operation ensure not located below standing surfaces, under grates etc to prevent delays in actuation.