

## **Knowledge**

A number of years ago Bosch Rexroth Canada had been contracted to provide a course on hydraulic design for a local steel manufacturer. As a prerequisite to the course the students were required to complete the five day basic hydraulic seminar. One of the attendees was outraged at this idea stating that “after being in the industry for more than 20 years he certainly did not need a basic course”. I remember this instance because when he approached me at the end of Wednesday’s session of the Basic Hydraulics course he proclaimed that “he didn’t realize how much he didn’t know”.

When we speak about learning we need to differentiate between learning a task and learning a skill. A person can be taught to perform a task without understanding the underlying nature to what he is doing. The best example for this is of a mechanic simply turning in the knob of a pressure relief valve when a certain problem occurs on a machine because this has solved the problem in the past. Although this particular fix seemed to work last week he really has no idea of what he is effecting in regards to the machine’s real performance and reliability. He may be (and quite likely is) doing more harm than good by following this approach. In contrast to this however if he/she truly understands the operation of the components and systems within the machine the mechanic now possesses a skill whereby he/she can truly comprehend and properly correct the problem at hand. This skill is also transferrable whereby once the base principles are mastered it is a simple matter to build upon and expand this knowledge base. The skill can easily be applied to another piece of machinery whereas a task must be completely re-learned for each problem which arises.

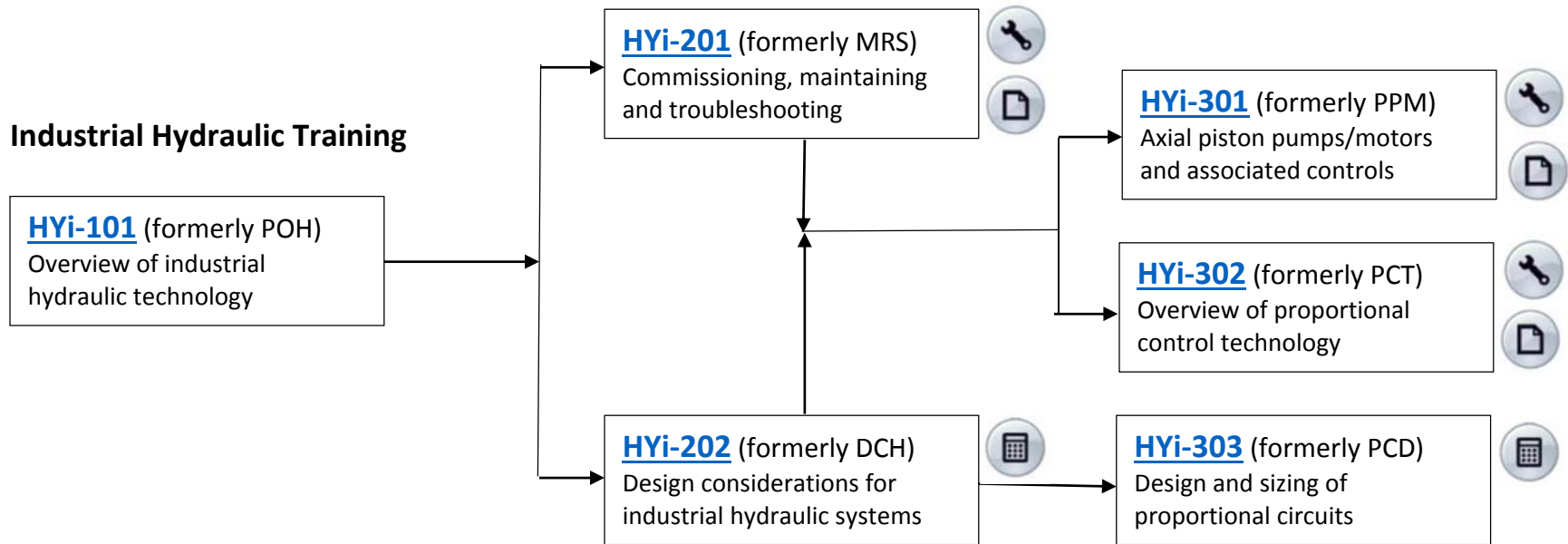
In our maintenance courses, design courses and troubleshooting courses we endeavour to refine the skills that a person already possesses by building on their knowledge level. We provide additional tools to help the individual achieve competency in their respective area of responsibility. If the person does not possess the prerequisite knowledge coming into these seminars the class will likely still be beneficial however the information gained will only provide the possibility of them performing new tasks and will likely not do much in the area of building their skill level. The most paramount knowledge in all cases is the sound foundational knowledge.

I have no doubt that the highest rate of return of all of the offerings in our training calendar are the first level HYi-101 (industrial) or HYm-101 (mobile) courses. Without this solid foundational knowledge one cannot hope to receive full value from any of the higher level course offerings. There is no trades training program in North America which covers even a portion of the material presented in these seminars so if you are questioning your need to take this course please give us a call or email us and we will help you in your decision. We want to ensure that you receive the best value for your training dollar and that you are completely satisfied with the training you receive. As I stated to this gentleman many years ago, “if you don’t think that the course was beneficial we will be glad to credit your tuition towards the next level course offering”. The offer still stands and we have yet to be taken up on it since 1997.

Doug Wilson  
Fluid Power Training Manager  
Bosch Rexroth Canada Corp.

## Course Progression

### Industrial Hydraulic Training



### Mobile Hydraulic Training

