

BATTERIES (Lead Acid)

Hazardous Waste Management Plan



Possible areas of concern and characterization

The cells of a lead-acid battery contain lead, lead dioxide, and an acidic electrolyte solution of sulfuric acid. The electrolyte is a strong corrosive agent. Batteries may also vent explosive hydrogen gas. Lead acid batteries are hazardous due to their lead content and corrosiveness. It is illegal to dispose of a lead acid battery in a landfill. Do not place in trash container.

HANDLING PROCEDURES

- Step 1** Establish a battery program through your Supply Support Activity (SSA) office.
- Step 2** Store batteries so the terminals cannot contact each other and terminals are to be capped (non-conductive caps) during storage.
- Step 3** Batteries should be stacked no more than two tiers high on a spill containment pallet with cardboard in between, as per the Hazardous Waste Management Plan. (Do not drain electrolyte.)
- Step 4** Personnel must have proper PPE, spill clean-up material on-hand, and trained to address any spills.
- Step 5** New and used batteries should be stored in designated areas on spill containment pallets. Store in an area that provides protection from the weather.
- Step 6** QRP can take all government NSN lead acid batteries with the exception of the following:

Take these to the HMSO: NSN 6140-01-390-1968, NSN 6140-01-390-1969, NSN 6140-01-446-9506

NOTES

- Damaged batteries must be double-bagged prior to turn-in (i.e., exterior case cracked). Store damaged batteries separate from serviceable batteries and contact the EMD Hazardous Waste Classification Unit (HWCU), BLDG 2952, for disposal procedures.
- Battery terminals must be taped (non-conductive tape) or capped (non-conductive caps) when turning in to the QRP or EMD HWCU.
- When storing batteries, batteries must be on a pallet with cardboard placed between layers, two layers high only, store batteries so the terminals cannot contact each other and terminals are to be capped (non-conductive caps) during storage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Hazardous Waste Classification Unit/BLDG 2954
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