

## **INDUSTRIAL BATTERY MAINTENANCE**

**SECTION: 5.5**  
**PROCEDURE: BATTERY MAINTENANCE**

**ISSUED:**  
**PAGE: 1 of 1**

### **BATTERY MAINTENANCE**

- 1) Wear your required protective equipment.
- 2) Check to ensure that the electrolyte level covers the top of the battery plates. If it is low, distilled water should be added only.
- 3) A hydrometer is used to determine the quality of the charge in the cell (specific gravity).  
  
Fully charged specific gravity is 1.280 at 60 degrees Fahrenheit.  
Battery in need of a charge is 1.140 at 60 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 4) Use only a clean hydrometer and ensure that you squeeze the rubber ball before you use it to test the level of charge.
- 5) If the sulfuric acid and water mixture (electrolyte) comes into contact with any skin, obtain first aid treatment immediately.
- 6) Eye wash facilities are required in the battery charging area.
- 7) Spills of sulfuric acid should be neutralized with baking soda or another base solution before they are rinsed away with water.
- 8) Battery caps must be left in place while the battery is being charged.
- 9) Over use of the battery will cause extensive damage to the truck (operating the unit when the specific gravity is 1.140 or lower).
- 10) Short charges (like charging over the lunch hour) will shorten the life of the battery and do not give you more work life.
- 11) Proper operating and charging methods will lengthen the shift life of the battery as well as the term before the battery needs to be replaced.
- 12) Do not wear any metal objects ie. watches, jewellery, chains, etc. when working on a battery.
- 13) Only trained and authorized personnel may perform any battery maintenance.