

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Explosion as a result of ignition of hydrogen or oxygen



Permanent eye damage or chemical burns from contact with corrosive chemicals



Electric shock as a result of incorrect use or faulty equipment

What PPE should the individual wear?



When topping up vented batteries goggles, PVC or rubber gauntlets and apron and safety shoes

What other precautions should be taken?

18+

You must be 18 years of age or above



Eyewash kit must be available



Warning signage must be displayed

Charging lead-acid batteries

Safety Task Card
STCGE 32

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

1. Only handle and charge batteries if you have been trained to do so and you are 18 years of age or older.
2. Follow the manufacturer's instructions where these are available.
3. Batteries must be charged in a designated and well-ventilated area, and warning signage must be displayed.
4. Ensure an emergency eyewash station is available in the battery charging area.
5. You must not wear metal jewelry or a watch when handling batteries.
6. Do not smoke, vape or use your phone when handling batteries.
7. Ensure that the area is clear of sources of ignition including flames, sparks, hot surfaces, electric equipment and mobile phones.
8. Visually inspect the battery and if there is evidence of a leak, don't handle it and notify your manager.
9. Ensure the charger is off before connecting charging leads to the battery. For onboard battery charging the equipment must be turned off and the key removed.
10. Check that the charger is set for the correct battery type.
11. Connect the positive lead to the positive terminal and then the negative lead to the negative terminal.
12. Check that the connections are secure before turning the charger on.
13. Do not adjust or remove the charging leads while the charger is on.
14. When charging is complete, turn off the charger before removing the leads.
15. Store charging leads so that the uninsulated ends do not touch one another or any unearthed metalwork.
16. **For vented/wet batteries see reverse for additional controls.**

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified, and control measures required to manage these.

Charging lead-acid batteries continued

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Safe System of Work

Additional controls for vented/wet batteries:

- a. Check the electrolyte level before charging.
- b. If the battery needs to be topped up with distilled or deionised water, you must only do this if you are wearing the required PPE, which includes goggles, PVC or rubber gauntlets and apron, and reinforced toe capped shoes.
- c. Do not overfill the battery as the electrolyte will expand during charging.
- d. Allow the battery to stand for at least 20 minutes at the end of charging.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.