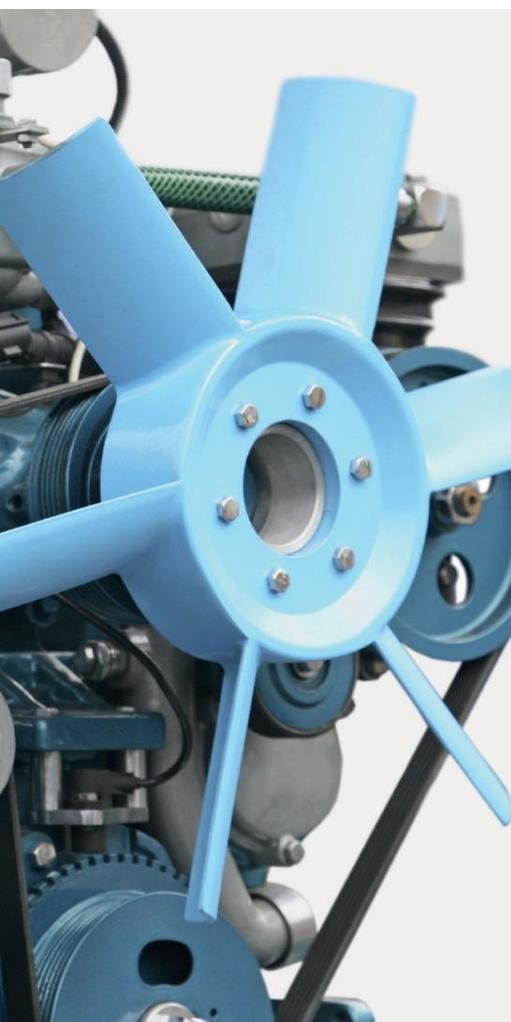


# Nickel Cadmium Batteries

BLOCK TYPE



**NICA**



# POWER BACK-UP WITH NICA

## NICA your long term partner for power back-up challenges

Nica has been a trusted battery for the world's leading industrial players for over 100 years, with a range of well proven solutions that deliver secure energy for stationary applications.

Nica's products are designed to meet the reliability, safety and security challenges of today's industrial landscape where they provide power back-up, starting power and bulk energy storage. Nica's commitment to Research and Development and innovative engineering ensures that our nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries offer the very latest in design, quality and industrial process technology. They also come with comprehensive through-life global service support, from initial consultancy to volume delivery, including training, maintenance and expert technical back-up.

## Reliable and robust batteries for a wide range of industrial applications

Stationary batteries are used in

- refineries,
- power plants,
- onshore & offshore oil and gas industries,
- substations,
- airports & building infrastructure

Locations where it is absolutely critical to have batteries that will work when they should, even under extreme operating conditions.

Power is absolutely vital to Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems, switching and transmission functions, emergency and security systems, industrial fire monitors and alarms, process control installations, substation switchgear, signaling systems and more.

If the primary power source for these applications is suddenly unavailable, a back-up system provides a temporary source of power until primary power re-engages or while systems operators perform a controlled shutdown. However, back-up power is only as good as the stationary battery that enables it!

# NICA M Block battery range

## Built with the highest quality, safety and environmental standards

### Electrical characteristics:

- Certified IEC 60623 - Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes - vented nickel-cadmium prismatic rechargeable single cells.

### Safety:

- Complies with EN 50272-2 / IEC 62485-2 - Safety requirements for secondary batteries and battery installations - Part 2: Stationary batteries - The protective covers for terminals and connectors, the insulated cables are compliant with IP2 level protection against electrical shocks according to safety standard.
- Complies with UL 1989 - Section 7: Flame arrestor vent cap tests - UL standard for safety for standby batteries.

### Quality:

- ISO 9001 and ISO 14001
- Nica world class continuous programme

### Environment & recycling

- Fully recyclable
- RoHS - Although batteries and accumulators are not within the scope of the RoHS directive, Nica has taken voluntary measures to make sure that the substances forbidden by RoHS are not present in the battery, with the exception of the electro-chemical core.
- REACH - Nica has adopted internal procedures to ensure conformity with the European REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemical Substances) Regulations.

## Instant starting power

Cranking up an emergency generator or switching on heaters, pumps or other equipment requires batteries that are very reliable, offer high discharge capabilities and function properly in extreme temperatures. Nica batteries recover their voltage instantaneously, making them the ideal choice for starting applications.

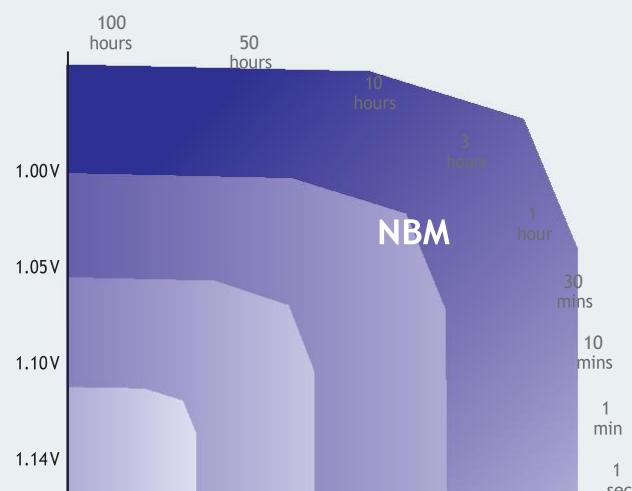
## A wide choice of capacity and performance

Nica has developed the NBLE, NBM and MBH ranges of block batteries to offer the optimum, flexible solution for all stationary applications. The choice of low, medium and high capacity types makes it easy to select the ideal battery, based on required discharge time and end of discharge voltage. Thanks to the robust and reliable Nica pocket plate technology they resist electrical abuse, shock and vibrations.

Furthermore, a generous reserves for electrolyte means that the block batteries need only basic maintenance, while operating across a wide range of fluctuating temperatures. This ensures an optimized Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) over a life cycle that can last 20 years or more.

### From seconds to hours - every discharge need is covered

Nica has a Block battery range to suit every discharge profile from 1 second to 100 hours



M Type	
Capacity steps	68
Capacity	11 - 1445 Ah
Performance	For varied loads with low and high discharge rates between 30 minutes and 3 hours
Applications	Power back-up applications



# NICA BATTERY SAFE & ROBUST

## NICA Ni-Cd Technology

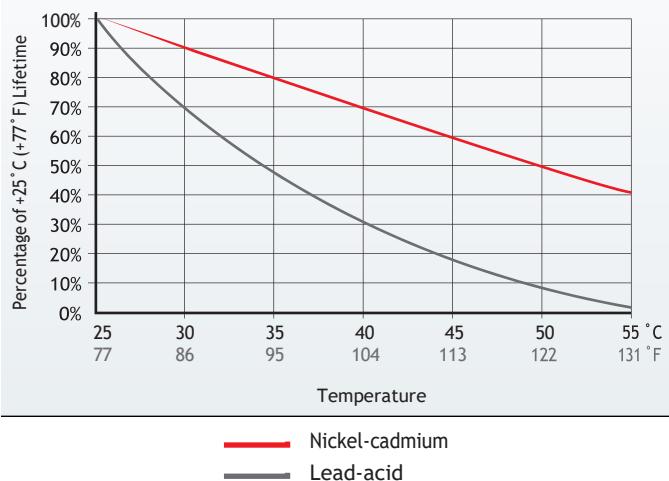
the proven advantages of a safe  
and robust design

### Ni-Cd means proven reliability

Nica's robust Ni-Cd technology sets the benchmark for industrial batteries operating in difficult and demanding conditions.

- Delivers performance, reliability, and a long, totally predictable, service life - with no risk of sudden death failure.
- Ensures a 20-year plus service life at +25°C (+77°F).
- Even at +35°C (+95°F), lifetime falls by just 20% compared with a 50% reduction for a lead-acid battery.

Effect of temperature on lifetime



# NICA Blockbattery construction

## The ideal battery for every application

- Performance optimized for each application according to plate thickness.
- **M type**
  - Thinner plates
  - Medium power
  - Optimized between H and L design for mixed loads
- Optimized design boost electrical performance by up to 10% depending on discharge time.
- Twice the number of capacity steps compared with previous designs enables accurate matching with calculated amp-hour requirements.

Improved performance and more capacity steps allow you to select the best, cost-effective battery for your application.

## The essential features

- The steel pocket plate structure does not suffer from “sudden death” or internal corrosion since there is no interaction between the active material and electrolyte.
- Tough polypropylene casing ensures structural integrity throughout a long life.
- An engineered electrolyte solution delivers optimum performance without causing degradation of plate materials.
- Plenty of space is allowed for a good reserve of electrolyte.
- A special electrolyte is available for extremely low temperature applications.
- A specially designed flame arresting flip top vent ensures the battery does not produce corrosive emissions.
- The Black battery offers a long shelf life when stored under Nica's recommended conditions and it is easy to install.

### 1. Protective cover

In line with IEC 60485-2 / EN 50272-2 (safety) with IP2 level.

### 2. Flame-arresting vents

Compliant with UL 1989 - Section 7 - Flame arrester vent cap test

### 3. Plate groupbus

### 4. Plate tab

### 5. Plate frame

### 6. Separating grids

### 7. Cell container

### 8. Nica pocket plate technology

**Note :** The cells are welded together to form rugged blocks of 1-6 cells depending on the cell size and type. Nica cells fully comply with the requirements of the IEC 60623 standard.





# NICA SETTING INDUSTRY BENCHMARK

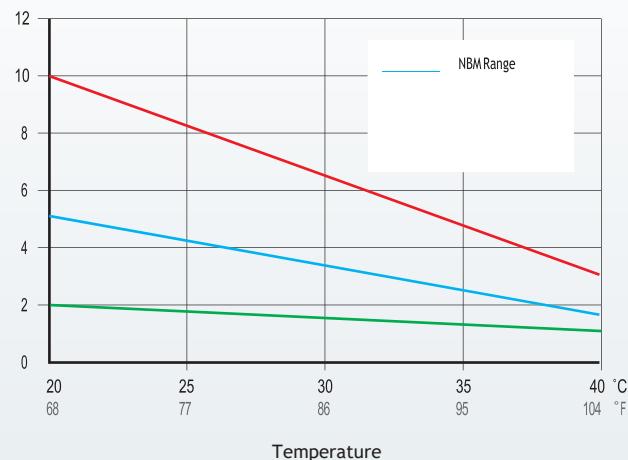
## NICA thebenchmark for industrial batteries

### Low maintenance means lower lifetime costs

- Topping-up intervals are now up to two times longer under standard conditions at +20°C (+68°F) and at float voltage.
- A simple annual maintenance exercise is recommended to check correct functioning of the charging system, battery and the auxilliary electronics.
- Easy maintenance thanks to :
  - Visible electrolyte level
  - Simple bolted connector for fast installation and allowing the battery to be quickly commissioned

### Typical topping up intervals at recommended charge voltage

Topping-up interval (year)



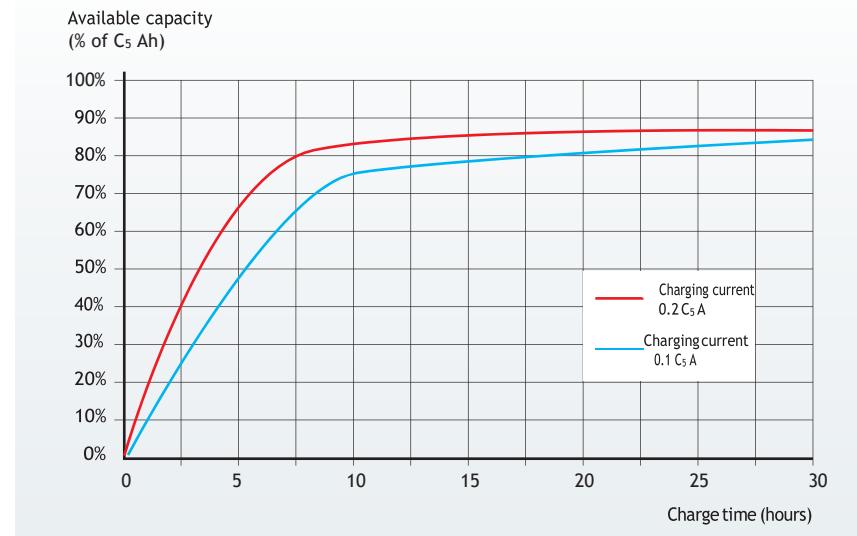
# Higher chargeability minimizes downtime

Faster recharge time enables at least 80% recovery of capacity from fully discharged conditions in 15 hours at float voltage level.

Constant voltage charging (+20°C to +25°C or +68°F to +77°F)

Continuous parallel operation, with occasional battery discharge. Recommended charging voltages:

NBM Range - Available capacity after constant voltage charge at 1,40 V at +20°C (+ 68°F)



## a) For two levels charge:

- Float level :  
1.42 ± 0.01 V/cell for NBLE  
1.40 ± 0.01 V/cell for NBM and NBH
- High level :  
1.47 - 1.70 V/cell for NBLE  
1.45 - 1.70 V/cell for NBM and NBH  
A high voltage will increase the speed and efficiency of the recharging.

## b) For single level charge :

- 1.43 - 1.50 V/cell

Buffer operation, where the load exceeds the charger rating. Recommended charging voltage: 1.50 - 1.60 V/cell.

## Constant current charging

- Normal charging: 0.2 C<sub>5</sub>A for 10 hrs.

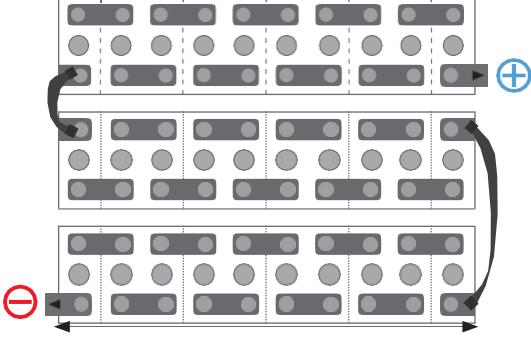
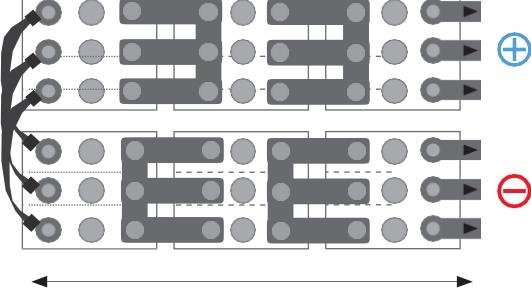
# NICA Battery Layout

## for optimum efficiency

### Standard layouts

Nica has developed a series of standard layouts for ordering a battery. Whether the battery is being installed on a rack, in a cabinet or is simply freestanding, the same configuration principals can be applied.

### Two ways to configure the battery

NBM	Normal connection	Crosswise connection
	11 " 392	415 " 1445
	 <p>Length-to-Length connection</p>	 <p>Width-to-Width connection</p>

The cell is turned through 90° and then connected width-to-width. This is referred to as “crosswise” mounted and its purpose is to minimize the installation’s over-all length.

The cell’s width is used to calculate the row length.

### Dimensions

The dimensions of all available cell types are listed in the tables. The block length is determined by the cell length and the number of cells in the block.

### Notes :

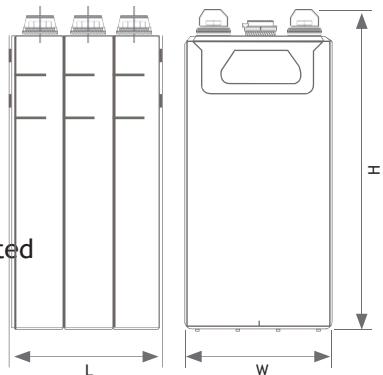
- All the tabulated dimensions are maximum values.
- All block types with a cell weight exceeding 8.4 kg (18.5 lbs) have handles.
- The tabulated block length includes 6mm for handles for these types.
- All the cell heights given in the tables include the height of the IP2X terminal cover.

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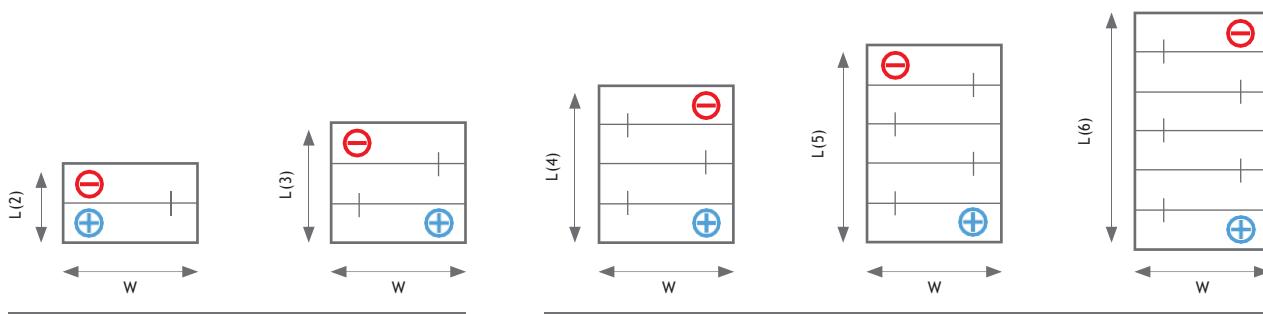
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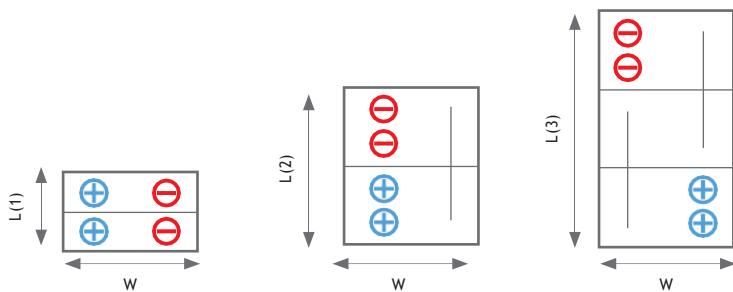
## Position of terminals

### Block of cells with single pole bolt



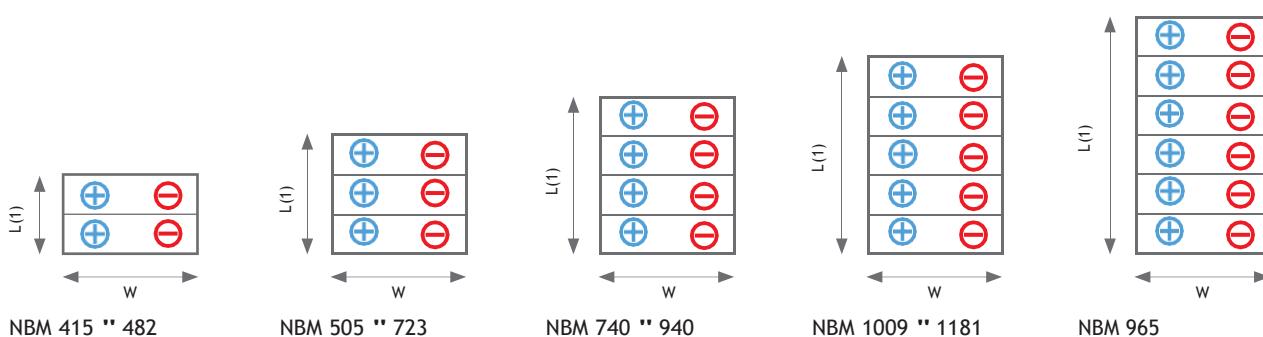
NBM 11 " 241

### Block of cells with 2 pole bolt per poles



NBM 250 " 392

### Block of cells with 2 - 6 poles bolt per poles



NBM 415 " 482

NBM 505 " 723

NBM 740 " 940

NBM 1009 " 1181

NBM 965













# Maintenance of Batteries

## Cleanliness / Mechanical

Cells must be kept clean and dry at all times, as dust and damp cause current leakage. Terminal and connectors should be kept clean, and any spillage during maintenance should be wiped off with a clean cloth. The battery can be cleaned, using water. Do not use wire brush or a solvent of any kind. Vent caps can be rinsed in clean water, if necessary.

Check that the flame arresting vents are tightly sealed and that there are no deposits on the vent caps.

Terminals should be checked for tightness, and the terminals and connectors should be corrosion protected by coating with a thin layer of neutral grease or anti-corrosion oil.

## Changing electrolyte

In most stationary operations, the electrolyte will retain its effectiveness for the life of the battery. Thus, normally it is not necessary to change the electrolyte.

However, under certain battery operating conditions involving high temperature and cycling, the electrolyte can become excessively carbonated. Under these circumstances, the battery performance can be improved by replacing the electrolyte. Please consult your representative under these conditions.

## Topping up

Check the electrolyte level. Never let the level fall below the lower MIN mark. Use only approved distilled or deionized water to top up. Do not overfill the cells.

Excessive consumption of water indicates operation at too high a voltage or too high temperature. Negligible consumption of water, with batteries on continuous low current or float charge, could indicate undercharging. A reasonable consumption of water is the best indication that a battery is being operated under the correct conditions. Any marked change in the rate of water consumption should be investigated immediately.

## Capacity check

Electrical battery testing is not part of normal routine maintenance, as the battery is required to have the back-up function and cannot be easily taken out-of-service.

However, if a capacity test of the battery is needed, the following procedure should be followed:

- a) Discharge the battery at the rate of  $0.1C_5$  to  $0.2C_5$  amperes (10 to 20 amperes for a 100 Ah battery) to a final average voltage of 1.0 volts per cell. (i.e. 92 volts for a 92 cells battery)
- b) Charge 200% (i.e. 200 Ah for 100 Ah battery) at the same rate used as the above paragraph (a)
- c) Discharge at the same rate used in (a), measuring and recording current, voltage and time every hour, and more frequently towards the end of the discharge. This should be continued until a final average voltage of 1.0 volts per cell is reached. The overall state of battery can then be seen, and if individually cell measurements are taken, the state of each cell can be observed.

## Recommended maintenance procedure

In order to obtain the best from your battery, the following maintenance procedures are recommended.

### Yearly

- Check charge voltage settings
- Check cell voltages  
( 50 mV deviation from average is acceptable )
- Check float current of the battery
- Check electrolyte level
- High voltage charge if agreed for application

### Every 2 years

- Clean cell lids and battery area
- Check torque values
- Grease terminals and connectors

### Every 5 years or as required

- Capacity check

### As required

Top-up with water according to defined period ( depend on float voltage, cycles and temperature )

It is also recommended that a maintenance record be kept which should include a record of the temperature of the battery room.

# Installation and storage

## Batteries on arrival

On receiving the battery, open the cases and check for any indication of damage in transit.

Remove the cells and any accessories from the packaging, and check that the contents are in order and inspect for any damage in transit.

Damage must be reported immediately to the carrier, and the company or its agent.

If batteries are not put into service immediately they should be stored in a clean, dry, cool and well ventilated storage space on open shelves. Plastic cells should not be exposed to direct sunlight.

Before storage, ensure that:

- a) Cells are kept clean with adequate protective finish, such as neutral grease on post and connectors.
- b) Electrolyte in cells are filled to the correct level.
- c) Vents are correctly seated and vent plugs firmly in position.  
Keep the transit sealing tape in position.

Note that if excessive loss of electrolyte in transit is found in cells supplied filled, ensure that the cells are correctly filled before storage.

## Cells after storage

All cells after storage must be prepared for service and fully commissioned.

### Cell                                      oil

On top of the electrolyte of filled cells which floats a layer of cell oil to reduce self-discharge and water loss due to evaporation. This layer is approximately 5mm thick, when the cells are delivered empty and must be added to the cells after they have been filled with electrolyte.

## Filled Cells

Filled cells can be stored for up to a maximum of one year. The cells should be sealed with plastic transport seals, supplied with the cells. Check the transport seals upon receipt.

If for unavoidable reasons, filled cells have been stored for more than one year, they must be given maintenance cycles as follows:

- a) Remove transport seals form the cells.
- b) Discharged at the charging current in the Cell Data Tables to 1.0 Volts per cell.
- c) Charge to 10 hours at the charging current in the Cell Data Tables, or equivalent.
- d) Wait for 24 hours for all gassing to stop.
- e) Replace plastic transport seals and return to store.

For batteries stored more than 12months, at least one discharged/charged cycle as above should be carried out before the commissioning change begins.

## Discharge and empty

Cells discharge and empty can be stored for many years if kept under the correct conditions. They should be stored in a clean, dry, cool ( $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and well ventilated storage space on open shelves. It is important that they are sealed with the transport seals firmly in place. These should be checked at least yearly, and if necessary replaced or refitted. Failure or the seal will result in ingress of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which will result in carbonation of plates. This can affect the capacity of the battery.

Storage of the battery at temperatures above  $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$  can result in loss of capacity. This can be as much as 5% per  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  above  $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$  per year. Discharged and empty cells should be filled with electrolyte, and then the procedure for filled cells stored more than 1 year must followed.

## Emplacement

The battery should be installed in a dry and clean location, away from direct sunlight, strong daylight and heat.

Block batteries can be fitted on to stands, floor-mounted or fitted into cabinets. The battery will give the best performance and maximum service life when the ambient temperature is between  $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $+35^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Local standards or codes normally define the mounting arrangements of batteries, and these must be followed, if applicable. However, if this is not the case, the following comments should be used as a guide. When mounting the battery, it is desirable to maintain an easy access to all blocks; they should be situated in a readily available position.

Distance between stands, and between stands and walls, should be sufficient to give good access to the battery.

## Example

A battery of 98 cells, type NBH79 on a two step, two tier stand, is placed in a room of dimension 2m x 2m x 3m

The charging system is capable of charging at  $0.1C_5$  and so the charging current is 7.9 amperes.

The volume of hydrogen evolved per hour in this, the worst, case is:

$$\begin{aligned} &= 98 \times 7.9 \times 0.00045 \text{ m}^3 \\ &= 0.35 \text{ m}^3 \end{aligned}$$

The total volume of room is  $2 \times 2 \times 3 = 12 \text{ m}^3$

Approximate volume of battery and stand does not exceed 1 m<sup>3</sup>, and so, the volume of free air in the room is 11 m<sup>3</sup>.

Therefore, the concentration of hydrogen gas after charging for 1 hour at full gassing potential at  $0.1C_5$  will be:  $= 0.35/11 = 3.2\%$

The overall weight of the battery must be considered and the load bearing on the floor taken into account in the selection of the battery accommodation. In case of doubt, please contact your representative for advice.

When mounting the battery, ensure that the cells are correctly interconnected with the appropriate polarity. The battery connection to load should be with nickel-plated cable lugs.

Recommended torque for connecting screws is:

- \* M6       $11 \pm 1.0 \text{ N.m}$
- \* M8       $20 \pm 2 \text{ N.m}$
- \* M10       $30 \pm 3 \text{ N.m}$

To avoid accelerated aging of the plastic due to UV-light, batteries with plastic cell containers should not be exposed to direct sunlight or strong daylight for a prolonged period.

If the battery is enclosed in a cabinet or other such enclosed space, it is important to provide sufficient space to disperse the gasses given off during charging, and also to minimize condensation. It is recommended that at least 200mm be allowed above cell tops, to ensure easy access during inspection and topping up, and that enough space is allowed between cabinet walls and the battery to avoid any risk of short circuits. Flip-top vents may be turned through 180° to achieve the most convenient position for topping-up.

## Ventilation

When the battery is housed in a cubicle or enclosed compartment, it is necessary to provide adequate ventilation.

During the last part of high-rate charging, the battery is emitting gases ( oxygen-hydrogen mixture ).

It is required to establish that the ventilation of the battery room is adequate, and it is necessary to calculate the rate of evolution of hydrogen to ensure that the concentration of hydrogen gas in the room is kept within safe limits.

The normally accepted safe limit for hydrogen is 4%. However, some standards call for more severe levels than this, and levels as low as 1% are sometimes required.

To calculate the ventilation requirements of a battery room, the following method can be used:

1 Ah of overcharge breaks down 0.366 cm<sup>3</sup> of water, and 1 cm<sup>3</sup> of water produces 1.865 liters of gas in the proportion 2/3 hydrogen and 1/3 oxygen. Thus 1 Ah of overcharge produces 0.45 liters of hydrogen.

Therefore, the volume of hydrogen evolved from a battery per hour

= number of cells x charge current x 0.45 liters or

= number of cells x charge current x 0.00045 m<sup>3</sup>

The volume of hydrogen found by this calculation can be expressed as a percentage of the total volume of the battery room, and from this, the number of air changes required to keep the concentration of hydrogen below a certain level can be calculated.

Thus, to maintain a maximum concentration of 2%, the air in the room will need changing  $3.2 = 1.6$  times per hour.

A typical figure for natural room ventilation is about 2.5 air changes per hour, and so, in this case, it would not be necessary to introduce any forced ventilation. In a floating situation, the current flowing is very much lower than when the cell is being charged, and the gas evolution is minimal; it may be calculated in the same way using typical floating currents.

Authorised Distributor:



**NIMAC**  
Power Systems



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