

# SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKING WITH STATIONARY LEAD-ACID BATTERIES

# RISK OF EXPLOSION



## Warning

The cells of a battery constantly release hydrogen, whether it is resting or charging. This gas release increases with the ageing of the cells. Hydrogen and oxygen constitute an explosive mixture. As the risk of explosion is permanent in battery rooms, it is crucial to comply with the following safety instructions

- NEVER put a flame near the components; do not smoke or cause sparks.
- Ensure good ventilation of the battery rooms.
- Do not remove the explosion-proof plugs or level indicators during the charging process.

# HANDLING OF THE CELLS

The overalls or protective clothing of the handling personnel must be made of rubber, wool or cotton. Synthetic materials are to be avoided because of the phenomena of static electricity. Allow to regularly "discharge" to ground by touching a piece of metal (door, water pipe, etc.) so as to eliminate electrostatic charges.

### 1) Voltage control

On each cell, remove the protective covers provided on the large batteries, allowing only the connections located on the operator side to be accessible. Proceed to voltage measurement using protected tips and replace the protective covers before moving to the next cell.

#### 2) Refilling and density reading

While the connection covers are in place, remove the filler cap only for the time strictly required for the operation planned on each cell; put it back in place before moving to work on the next cell.

#### 3) Maintenance of connections

Never dismantle the connections without first isolating the battery from the installation.

Remove only the protective covers of the same polarity; put them back in place before working on the next cell.

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