

USSL Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment No		81	Activity		Changing Vehicle Batteries		Locations		Garage / Workshop	
Assessment Undertaken by		M. Watson	Assessment Date		Jun-17		Review Date		1/6/18	
Risk Ratings										
Persons at risk (PAR)		Severity / Harm Rating (S)				Likelihood (L)				
E	Employees / Contractors	1	Negligible injury or no injury				1	Extremely unlikely to occur at any time		
P	Members of Public	2	Minor injury requiring First Aid				2	A rare combination of factors would be required for an incident to occur		
V	Visitors	3	Lost time injury				3	Could happen, but considered unlikely under normal circumstances		
C	Clients	4	Single serious injury or single death				4	Not certain, but an additional factor may result in an incident		
		5	Multiple deaths and or serious injuries				5	Almost inevitable that an incident will result - Highly likely to occur		
Tolerance rating										
15 - 25		DANGER - Task/activity should not proceed. Further control measures are to be put in place to reduce risk. When in place the level of risk should be re-assessed for adequacy before the work recommences.								
7 - 14		SIGNIFICANT RISK is attached to this task/activity. Look critically at ways of reducing the level of risk to a more tolerable level by improving existing control measures or by introducing new controls.								
1 - 6		TOLERABLE RISK - Consider if risk is "as low as reasonably practicable", If not try to reduce risk further by improving control measures. Keep under review and continue with task/activity, but with caution								
NB. Full PPE will be utilised as a matter of course during any works undertaken										
Initial Assessment No controls						Risk Mitigation Measures				
Item No	Hazard Identification	PAR	S	L	Score	Control Measures	S	L	Revised Score	Risk Acceptable
1	Burns Chemical exposure Explosion	E	4	4	16	Always remove the battery from the vehicle, disconnecting the negative lead first and reconnecting it last to avoid a short circuit to the chassis or bodywork. Ensure batteries are always handled in a well ventilated area. Use extraction equipment where provided. Check that the charger is switched off before connecting or disconnecting the terminals. Check that the terminals are clean and that connections (especially "crocodile clips") are tight. Provide plenty of clean water to wash off any spilt acid. Never handle batteries near naked flames, lighted cigarettes, heaters or electrical equipment. Do not touch the terminals with metal objects. Do not charge batteries at rates in excess of manufactures recommendations. Metal finger and wrist jewelry in contact with battery terminals causes burns and flash injuries and should never be worn when working with batteries. All staff to wear PPE during this operation. Fire fighting equipment to be at hand	4	1	4	Yes
Notes: There are two main risks when battery charging. First , battery acid gives off hydrogen which is easily ignited and explosive. Second, the acid itself can cause serious burns to skin and eyes if it is spilt. Always take precautions when filling or diluting a battery. Do not use battery discharge testers immediately after charging when false readings are given . Keep crocodile clips clean and free from corrosion and, except for the contact surfaces, insulated. Clean battery terminals before fixing charging clips.										