

COSHH & Power Sonic Batteries

Power Sonic wishes to emphasise that, properly used, batteries provide little chance of contact with substances deemed hazardous to health. However, the spirit of COSHH regulation encourages all employers to consider the potential risks where products are placed in circumstances of accident, mishap, and abuse. This information is provided to customers in compliance with the regulations for Control of Substances Hazardous to Health.

POWER SONIC SEALED LEAD ACID BATTERIES

A. COMPONENT SUBSTANCES

1. Lead - recognised hazardous subject to specific legislative controls:

- a) Under Normal Operating Conditions, no contact occurs between the user and lead enclosed within the battery. Avoid physical damage to the battery.
- b) Lead posts (certain models as specified on data sheets) - the solid alloy does not rub off easily. Any fragmentation caused by a blow to the terminal should be swept up and disposed of properly, washing hands to remove dust particles.
- c) Under circumstances of Damage or Abuse refer to Section C1 below.

2. Dilute Sulphuric Acid - mixture containing H₂ SO₄ - corrosive:

- a) Under Normal Operating Conditions, no contact occurs between the user and the acid mixture. Avoid physical damage to the battery.
- b) Leakage through vents and/or due to electrolytic action around terminals - small amounts are not immediately hazardous to skin. Avoid excessive skin contact. Avoid rubbing on clothing. Avoid putting hands/fingers in eyes or mouth. Wash all affected surfaces in mild solution of bicarbonate of soda. If in contact with eyes, flush immediately with water and seek medical attention.
- c) Under circumstances of Damage/Puncture/Abuse see Section C1 below.

3. Hydrogen Gas - explosive if present in quantity in a confined area: (not subject to COSHH regulation).

- a) Under Normal Operating Conditions, no gasses are released externally. Avoid overcharging. Charge only at voltages and according to instructions shown on data sheets, available from Power Sonic.
- b) Under conditions of Misuse/Abuse (i.e. excessive charging voltages) see Section C2 below.

4. **Fibreglass (some models)** - may abrade lens of eye. It is highly unlikely that a user of batteries will come into contact with sufficient quantity and in a manner capable of causing a hazard to his or her self, (see also Section C below).

B. ELECTRICAL HAZARD

Although not, strictly speaking, a "substance" and therefore not covered by COSHH, the electrical potential stored within the batteries represents a hazard if mishandled. Ordinary precautions regarding electrical safety apply.

C. PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE BATTERY AND/OR ABUSE/ MISUSE.

1. Physical damage resulting in cracks or puncture to the cell chambers may result in discharge of dilute acid mixture and/or particles of lead, as well as (for some models) Fibreglass. Care should be taken to avoid direct contact between skin, eyes, mouth or clothing and any solid or liquid matter discharged from a damaged battery. Wash any area in contact with acid with a mild solution of bicarbonate of soda. If acid or particulate matter comes into contact with eyes, flush immediately with water and seek medical attention. Dispose of any particulate matter promptly. If necessary to retain the battery for insurance or other inspection, cushion well with absorbent paper and wrap in a sealable plastic bag, (see also Section D - Disposal). **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RETURN FOR REPAIR. PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE BATTERY VOIDS WARRANTIES; ALL CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE IN TRANSIT MUST BE ADDRESSED TO TRANSPORTATION CARRIER AND ARE SUBJECT TO TIME LIMITATIONS.**
2. Abuse or Misuse of the battery, including but not limited to short circuiting, overcharging, overheating, reversing polarity, can result in fire and/or explosion of the battery. Refer to product data sheets, available from Power-Sonic, for correct charging voltages. **ABUSE/MISUSE OF THE BATTERY VOIDS ALL WARRANTIES.**

D. DISPOSAL

1. Electrically neutralise each battery by deep discharge to avoid risk of electrical shock or fire.
2. Treat as solid waste. **DO NOT INCINERATE.** Burning releases lead oxide compounds into the air and can risk explosion of the battery.

