SAFETY

Battery charging area inspection checklist

A check of the forklift battery charging area against OSHA 1910.178(g): a designated area, facilities for flushing and neutralizing spilled electrolyte, fire protection, ventilation, chargers protected from trucks, battery handling equipment, and no smoking, flames or sparks.

How often: **Weekly** Who: **Warehouse supervisor or maintenance technician** **About 10 min** **22 items**

Site or area _____ Asset or line _____

Date and time _____ Completed by _____

Before you use it

- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.178(g) covers changing and charging storage batteries on powered industrial trucks. Charging installations must be located in areas designated for that purpose ((g)(1)), and facilities must be provided for flushing and neutralizing spilled electrolyte, for fire protection, for protecting charging apparatus from damage by trucks, and for adequate ventilation for dispersal of fumes from gassing batteries ((g)(2)). Where eyes or body may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, 1910.151(c) separately requires suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing within the work area for immediate emergency use.
- A conveyor, overhead hoist or equivalent material handling equipment must be provided for handling batteries ((g)(4)), and a carboy tilter or siphon for handling electrolyte ((g)(6)). When charging batteries, acid is poured into water; water is not poured into acid ((g)(7)). Trucks must be properly positioned with the brake applied before batteries are changed or charged ((g)(8)), vent caps must be functioning and the battery or compartment cover open to dissipate heat ((g)(9)), and reinstalled batteries must be properly positioned and secured in the truck ((g)(5)).
- Smoking is prohibited in the charging area ((g)(10)), precautions must be taken to prevent open flames, sparks or electric arcs ((g)(11)), and tools and other metallic objects are kept away from the top of uncovered batteries ((g)(12)).
- The standard sets no inspection interval for the area; the conditions must be maintained. Weekly suits most sites. Add the charger manufacturer's own checks, and if your eyewash station is here, its activation from the eyewash checklist. Lithium-ion chargers involve no electrolyte handling, so drop those items for them.

Area

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
1	**Scan the tag at the charging area**	☐ Visited	
2	**Area identifier and number of chargers**	_____	

Designated area and facilities (1910.178(g)(1)–(2))

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
3	**Charging takes place in the designated area only; the area is marked and kept clear**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
4	**Facilities for flushing and neutralizing spilled electrolyte in place and stocked**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
5	**Eyewash or drench facility in the work area where electrolyte exposure is possible (1910.151(c))**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
6	**Fire extinguishing equipment at the area, accessible and inspected**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
7	**Chargers protected from damage by trucks, by barriers, bollards or their position**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
8	**Ventilation adequate to disperse fumes from gassing batteries; fans running or openings clear**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	

Handling equipment (1910.178(g)(4), (g)(6))

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
9	**Conveyor, overhead hoist or equivalent battery handling equipment in place and in working order**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
10	**Carboy tilter or siphon available for handling electrolyte**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	

Practices observed (1910.178(g)(5), (g)(7)–(12))

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
11	**Trucks positioned with the brake applied before batteries are changed or charged**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
12	**Vent caps functioning; battery or compartment covers open while charging**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
13	**Reinstalled batteries positioned and secured in the truck**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
14	**When topping up, acid is poured into water, never water into acid**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
15	**No smoking in the area; signage posted**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
16	**No open flames, sparks or electric arcs; no tools or metallic objects on top of uncovered batteries**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	

Condition

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
17	**Charger cables, connectors and plugs undamaged**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
18	**No electrolyte spills or corrosion on the floor, racks or chargers**	☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A	
19	**Photo of the charging area**	☐ Photo taken	

Result

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
20	**Result**	☐ No defects ☐ Defects found, work order raised	
21	**Defects and corrective action**	_____ _____	

NO.	ITEM	RESULT	NOTES
22	**Inspector**	Name	
		Signature	
		Date	

Follow-up

For each failed check or reading out of limit: what was found, what was done, and the work order raised for it.

NO.	WHAT WAS FOUND	ACTION OR WORK ORDER	OWNER	DUE

References

- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.178, powered industrial trucks
  https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.178
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.151, medical services and first aid
  https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.151

Free to use and adapt. To run it on mobile, with checkpoint scans, readings checked against their limits as they are entered, and photos and signatures attached to the check, see vardian.io/templates/battery-charging-area-inspection.