



4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO AVOID BATTERY-RELATED RISKS

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Many businesses are increasingly reliant on battery-powered equipment or battery-backup systems to serve customers and accomplish the task at hand. Ask yourself this question: will the batteries you use reduce equipment downtime and keep your systems up and running? To avoid battery-related risks, follow these four tips to ensure your equipment performs at its fullest potential.

Tip #1: Find the Right Battery for the Device

From device requirements to battery specs and quality, there are a variety of considerations when selecting the right battery.

Using a battery that doesn't have the proper specifications puts you at risk of damaging the device and sacrificing performance. This can lead to increased risk of failure for the people who are relying on it to function as it's intended. Pay close attention to manufacturer requirements such as voltage and amp-hour ratings and find a battery that you trust to meet that performance. You should also check terminal type to ensure a proper connection. It is more important to match the requirements than trying to overpower the device or save money with a battery rated below what is recommended. A perfect match combines power rating, terminal type and size.

You may have chosen the right battery for the system and at a lower cost, but can you trust it will perform as advertised? Not knowing if the battery will live up to the specs printed on the label is a serious problem that could introduce risk. Don't gamble on quality to save money. Remember, printed specs are only part of the equation when choosing a reliable backup power source.

Tip #2: Use Freshly-Charged Batteries

Batteries should be tested and charged (if needed) before they are put into use. The importance of battery freshness and a full charge isn't often considered but the impact on performance can be huge. As an example, Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) batteries that have been sitting too long (typically 6+ months) can begin to sulfate, which deteriorates their capacity and compromises the battery's overall function.

Recent regulations require Lithium-ion batteries to be shipped at a state of charge not exceeding 30% of their rated capacity. That means you should test and charge these batteries before use to ensure proper performance. In some cases, you may even need to "wake up" the battery, so it will accept a charge. If you are buying from a battery specialist, they can advise you on that process.

Tip #3: Use a Brand That Stands for the Same Quality You Do

Your put a lot of time and effort into keeping your facility in top condition. Shouldn't the parts and suppliers you use measure up to that same standard of quality?

Every little detail matters when safety and operational efficiency is on the line. You need a supplier you can count on to get you the high-quality batteries you need. With such a variety in suppliers and battery choices, the differences in quality are not always obvious.

One way to manage this risk is to ensure the batteries come from a supplier that has implemented a quality management system. Some may overlook this in components like batteries, but the risk is too great to ignore. You can start by asking your supplier if they have a system in place to ensure quality before the battery makes it to you.

Armed with the combination of quality products and a trusted supplier, you can ensure you're protecting your most valuable assets - patient care, patient satisfaction, operational efficiency and your brand.

Tip #4: Consider the Impact of Logistics

What happens when you order a battery for an upcoming preventive maintenance event and it's out of stock? Having a supplier that is local and stocks the batteries you need keeps downtime to a minimum. If they aren't local, ensure they keep the most common batteries in stock and offer fast and affordable shipping. You don't want to incur expensive equipment downtime while you wait for the battery to arrive. Having a partner with predictable and reliable shipping or delivery could be the difference in keeping efficiency and service high or lost productivity and revenue.

As an expert in your field, you can't afford to have unexpected battery failures, unplanned downtime or subpar performance. When is the last time you thought about the quality of your batteries? Do you have an efficient solution for delivery, recycling and battery services? After all, it's not just a battery, it's your time, revenue and customer experience on the line.