

User Guide

Discover RE Gel Tubular Battery (SOPzV)

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Tubular Gel Battery

1. BATTERY CHARGING

The most common type of charging method can be grouped into three phases: bulk, absorption, and float charge. An additional equalization phase can be performed on a routine maintenance-as-required basis.

The Bulk charge accounts for charging the battery from anywhere between 0% up to 80% state of charge. The absorption phase charges the battery from 80% to nearly 100% state of charge. Lastly, a float charge supplies a controlled voltage and amperage to bring the battery to a complete full charge.

For specific charge programming instructions, please refer to the documents provided by the charger manufacturer.

1.1 CHARGE PARAMETERS

Regular Cycling /PSOC Recovery

Regular Cycling / PSOC Recovery		0°C (32°F)	10°C (50°F)	20°C (68°F)	25°C (77°F)	30°C (86°F)	40°C (104°F)
2V	Bulk & Absorption Charge Voltage	2.49 V	2.44 V	2.39 V	2.37 V	2.34 V	2.29 V
	Float Voltage	2.43 – 2.46 V	2.38 – 2.41 V	2.33 – 2.36 V	2.30 - 2.33 V	2.28 – 2.31 V	2.23 – 2.26 V
12V	Bulk & Absorption Charge Voltage	14.95 V	14.65 V	14.35 V	14.20 V	14.05 V	13.75 V
	Float Voltage	14.55–14.75V	14.25 – 14.45 V	13.95 – 14.15 V	13.80 - 14.00 V	13.65 – 13.85 V	13.35 – 13.55 V
24V	Bulk & Absorption Charge Voltage	29.90 V	29.30 V	28.70 V	28.40 V	28.10 V	27.50 V
	Float Voltage	29.10 – 29.50 V	28.50 – 28.90 V	27.90 – 28.30 V	27.60 - 28.00 V	27.30 – 27.70 V	26.70 – 27.10 V
48V	Bulk & Absorption Charge Voltage	59.80 V	58.60 V	57.40 V	56.80 V	56.20 V	55.00 V
	Float Voltage	58.20 – 59.00 V	57.00 – 57.80 V	55.80 – 56.60 V	55.20 - 56.00 V	54.60 – 55.40 V	53.40 – 54.20 V

TABLE 1 (a): Regular Cycling/Partial State of Charge (PSOC) Recovery

1.2 END AMPS (RETURN AMPS)

End Amps or Return Amps is the current when the battery is fully charged and no longer accepts a charge. When the current reaches the End Amps set point, the charger will turn off. The recommended setting is 2% of the C20 Ah rating. For example, if the battery is 220 Ah at the C20 rate, then the recommended End Amps setting is 4.4 Amps.

2. DEPTH OF DISCHARGE

It is recommended for a system to be sized for no greater than 50% Depth of Discharge (DOD). A deep discharge will provide more capacity to operate loads but exposes the battery to sulphation and reduces the service life. After a deep discharge, it is recommended to charge a battery back to full State of Charge (SOC) as soon as possible to preserve capacity life.

The longer the battery stays at a low Depth of Discharge, the greater the exposure to sulphation and capacity loss. If the battery is left at a low Depth of Discharge for extended periods of time, sulphation damages may become unrecoverable through equalization charges.

2.1 LOW VOLTAGE DISCONNECT

An electromagnetic device may be included into many charging systems which automatically disconnects and reconnects loads to the battery to preserve life based on the Low Voltage Disconnect (LVD) or Low Voltage Cut Off (LVCO) setting. The default setting may be set by the charger manufacturer at 1.8 volts per cell (VPC). To prolong battery cycle life, the recommended LVD setting is between 1.8 VPC to 1.85 VPC.

3. BATTERY MAINTENANCE

3.1 TERMINALS

The battery terminal connections should be regularly inspected, cleaned, and tightened properly with a torque wrench. Loose connections may cause arcing and shorts which will generate excessive heat and damage to the terminals.

Over time, dirt or corrosion may accumulate on the terminals. To clean, the connections should be removed. Using a neutralizing solution such as baking soda and water (100g per litre), wipe the terminals and connections to remove debris and any corrosion. Rinse the terminals and connections with distilled water to remove any remnants of the neutralizing solution. Allow sufficient time to dry, then apply a conductive coating agent such as petroleum jelly which acts as a safeguard against corrosion. Lastly, reconnect the battery terminals using a torque wrench.

3.2 STATE OF CHARGE

12V Block [Volt]	Percentage Charge
13.10V	100%
12.45V	75%
12.15V	50%
11.80V	25%
10.50V	0%

TABLE 2: State of Charge as a Measure Open-Circuit Voltage

3.3 TEMPERATURE

Temperature is important to monitor as it affects the voltage readings. Depending on the battery temperature, the voltage set points may require adjustment. For an accurate temperature measurement, the temperature sensor, if included with the charge equipment, must be properly mounted to the side of the cell casing below the electrolyte. Attaching the sensor to other parts of the battery may provide an inaccurate representation of the battery temperature. Failure to monitor the temperature accurately may cause overcharging or undercharging. The operating temperature should not exceed 50°C. As a precaution, there should be a charge cut-off to prevent the battery bank from operating at temperatures greater than 50°C (122°F).

3.4 STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE

When storing the batteries for a longer period, ensure to check the charge levels periodically as a low state of charge will cause sulphation. At ambient temperature conditions, the self-discharge is 5% per month. To maintain the battery at a high state of charge, the batteries should be recharged every 3 months to prevent sulphation.

If possible, the batteries should be stored at room temperature and in a controlled humidity environment (ie. indoors or sheltered). Depending on the temperature, the electrolyte levels may decrease in a colder environment and increase in a warmer environment. As a result, caution should be taken to monitor and maintain the electrolyte between the indicated minimum and maximum levels as plate exposure will have negative effects towards battery life.

3.5 WINTER STORAGE

The battery should be monitored closely in cold climates. If the electrolyte freezes, it may cause unreparable damage such as case cracking. A discharged battery is more likely to freeze than a fully charged battery.

A higher specific gravity freezes at a much lower freezing temperature. For example, at a low state of charge, the battery may freeze when stored below -7°C (20°F). When the battery is at a higher state of charge and a higher specific gravity such as at 1.280, the freezing temperature is at -69°C (-92°F).

4. COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

4.1 COMMISSIONING

Within the first week of operation, the following parameters should be recorded at full charge (baseline readings):

- Charger voltage and amperage output
- Absorption voltage at battery system terminals
- Measure and record the resting/loaded individual battery voltage
- Ambient temperature

Allow the battery system to discharge until it reaches the Low Voltage Disconnect and record the following parameters:

- Runtime
- Capacity delivered (amp-hours)
- Average DC load (amperes)
- Endpoint voltage at battery system terminals

After discharging, the battery should be fully charged as soon as possible to prevent sulphation.

4.2 SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

The following should be monitored for the first 6-12 months:

MONTHLY

- Measure and record the resting/loaded individual battery voltage.
- Record ambient temperature where the batteries are installed.
- Inspect cell integrity for corrosion at terminal, connection, racks or cabinets.
- Check battery monitoring equipment to verify operation.

QUARTERLY

- Test Ventilation.
- Check for high resistive connections.
- Check cabling for broken or frayed cables.
- Verify Charge Output, Bulk/Absorption voltage of Inverter/Charge Controller.
- Check Ground connections.

Deep cycle batteries will increase in capacity during the initial break-in period. Adjustments to charging parameters may be necessary during this time. Following these recommendations will ensure the batteries to reach their rated capacity and be maintained in good working order.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following is a list of common concerns and questions regarding system setup, battery charging and maintenance procedures. Please refer to these as general guidelines. For further assistance with your specific system setup, please contact your installer.

What causes the Battery Terminal to melt?

Battery terminals melting is most common because of improper connections causing high resistance and heat generation.

- Loose connections
- Over-tightened connections
- Improper sized cables (too small).
- Corroded connections
- Improper use of washers/lock washers.
- Too many connections on the same terminal

Why do the batteries bulge?

Some case bulging is normal from the weight of electrolyte. New battery cases tend to "relax" after filling with electrolyte.

- If case bulging is a concern upon receipt of a new product, please notify your Distributor immediately
- In the case of excessive bulging- your batteries may have been exposed to temperatures of over 50°C (122°F). The high temperature may cause the plates/chassis to swell and expand. If this occurs, the batteries may fail prematurely
- The batteries may have frozen due to excessive exposure to cold temperatures.

What causes a battery to lose capacity?

The capacity loss may be due to sulphation, overheating, or over-discharging. If there is capacity loss, the battery bank may no longer support an increase in load.

- A balance charge may be necessary
- Verify the temperature sensors are properly mounted and the operation settings are adjusted to the appropriate battery temperature

Why is the charging current to the battery bank so low?

The charging current will decrease as the batteries become fully charged. If the charge current is low, the end of charge cycle may have been reached. Verify that the charger is near the end of the Absorption phase or in Float voltage phase. If so, low current is normal at this stage of charging.

- The battery bank self-regulates charge current. The voltage can be controlled and adjusted to a high or low setting, however the amp output to the battery bank cannot be controlled and will drop as the batteries reach a full state of charge.

- When the charge current decreases to 2% of the battery capacity, the charge is essentially complete. (ex. 220 AH battery bank. Charge current is reduced to 4.4 Amps). Check the specific gravity with a hydrometer to confirm.

Why does the voltage rise very quickly causing the charger to shut off when I begin to charge my battery bank?

This is often an indication of sulphated batteries which can be confirmed by completing a load test.

- An increase in Absorption time may be necessary to sufficiently charge the battery to full SOC.
- If the battery bank is heavily sulphated, an equalization charge may be necessary.

Why does the battery bank not reach the Bulk voltage setting when charging?

If the system is not reaching the Bulk voltage, the charger voltage and/or Amp output to the battery bank may be too low. To ensure sufficient charge, the output should be approximately 10%-15% of the Amp Hour capacity of the battery bank. Another cause may be from DC loads running on the system during the charge cycle and reducing the current supplied to the battery bank.

- Verify that the charging settings meet the recommended charging parameters and that the charger output (Amps) is sufficient to meet the capacity requirements of the battery bank.

What do I do if the battery temperatures are very high?

- If at or nearing 50°C (122°F), shut off the charger and allow the batteries to cool.
- If a single battery or cell in a string is hot, this may indicate a cell failure or short. Verify the specific gravity for all cells, take the voltage readings from each battery, and perform a load test to identify any cell failures.

What causes the battery cover to crack, shatter and/or dislodge from the case? (Not affecting the positive and negative terminals or connections)

The ignition of hydrogen gas may have caused the battery cover to crack. This sometimes occurs during a charge where a loose connection at the terminal creates a spark and ignites hydrogen gas produced from the cell. If the battery case has split or cracked along the sides, the battery may have frozen in the past.