



Installation, maintenance, testing and replacement of secondary batteries in buildings

Part 1: Vented cells



AS 2676.1:2020

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- Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union — Electrical Division
- Consumers Federation of Australia
- CSIRO
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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee EL-005 Secondary Batteries, to supersede AS 2676.1—1992, *Guide to the installation, maintenance, testing and replacement of secondary batteries in building, Part 1: Vented cells*.

The objective of this Standard is to set out minimum requirements for the installation, maintenance, testing and replacement of vented secondary batteries permanently installed in buildings, structures or premises.

It also provides guidance to determine when batteries should be replaced.

This Standard covers secondary batteries with a nominal voltage of 24 V or greater, and a capacity exceeding 10 A.h at the 1 h rate and includes batteries comprising vented lead-acid cells and alkaline batteries comprising vented cells (such as nickel-cadmium cells).

This Standard covers requirements for components of the d.c. system of which the battery is a part, where these components comprise an essential part of the d.c. system.

This Standard covers vented cells only. The installation and maintenance of sealed cells are covered by AS 3011.2 and AS 2676.2.

The major changes in this edition are as follows:

- (a) Scope aligned to complement AS/NZS 5139.
- (b) Important requirements established in text.
- (c) Battery terminal connection requirements aligned with AS 3011.1.
- (d) Battery protection requirements aligned with AS 3011.1.
- (e) Layout, location and ventilation requirements aligned with AS 3011.1.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

Contents

Preface	ii
Introduction	vi
Section 1 Scope and general	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Application	1
1.3 Normative references	1
1.4 Terms and definitions	2
Section 2 Design considerations for direct current systems using batteries	6
2.1 General	6
2.2 Battery size (nominal voltage and rated capacity)	6
2.3 Method of connection	6
2.4 Operating conditions	6
2.5 Battery short-circuit current	7
2.6 Voltage drop	7
2.7 Connection between battery and direct current switchboard	8
2.7.1 General	8
2.7.2 Cables	8
2.7.3 Busbars	8
2.7.4 Busways	8
2.8 Direct current switchboards	8
2.9 Terminals and connectors	8
2.10 Direct current systems — earthing and earth-fault detection	8
2.11 Earth-fault location	9
2.12 Protection of batteries and direct current circuits	9
2.13 Alarms	10
2.14 Dual battery system	10
Section 3 Battery accommodation	11
3.1 General	11
3.2 Layout and location	11
3.3 Ventilation	11
3.3.1 Gas evolution	11
3.3.2 Rate of ventilation	11
3.3.3 Charging rate	12
3.3.4 Method of ventilation	12
3.4 Access	13
3.4.1 General	13
3.4.2 Battery rooms or areas restricted to authorized personnel	13
3.4.3 Battery enclosures	13
3.5 Floor loadings	13
3.6 Battery room floor construction and finish	14
3.7 Battery enclosure construction	14
3.8 Lighting and power	14
3.9 Safety signs	14
3.10 Water supply	14
3.11 Arrangement of cells or monobloc	15
3.12 Battery stands	15
Section 4 Charging	16
Section 5 Installation and commissioning	18
5.1 Receipt inspection	18
5.2 Unpacking	18
5.3 Storage	18
5.4 Mounting and connection	18

5.5	Commissioning.....	19
5.5.1	Initial charge.....	19
5.5.2	Inter-cell voltage.....	19
5.5.3	Performance test.....	19
5.5.4	Cell voltage test.....	19
5.6	Records.....	19
Section 6	Inspection and maintenance.....	20
6.1	Inspection.....	20
6.1.1	General.....	20
6.1.2	Test equipment.....	20
6.1.3	Inspection schedule.....	20
6.1.4	Performance tests.....	21
6.1.5	Abnormal conditions.....	21
6.2	Records.....	21
6.3	Pilot cells.....	22
6.4	Maintenance.....	22
6.4.1	Routine maintenance.....	22
6.4.2	Electrolyte density.....	22
6.4.3	Equalizing charges.....	23
6.4.4	Level of float voltage.....	23
6.4.5	Cell voltage.....	24
6.4.6	Cycling of nickel-cadmium batteries.....	24
Section 7	Testing.....	25
7.1	General.....	25
7.2	Capacity test schedule.....	25
7.2.1	Performance.....	25
7.2.2	Service.....	25
7.3	Design considerations for a capacity tester.....	25
7.4	Procedure for battery capacity tests.....	25
7.4.1	Type of test.....	25
7.4.2	Initial conditions.....	25
7.4.3	Test duration.....	26
7.4.4	Performance test.....	26
7.4.5	Service test.....	26
7.5	Battery replacement criteria.....	27
Section 8	Safety.....	28
8.1	General.....	28
8.2	Handling, mixing and storing of electrolyte.....	28
8.2.1	Acid electrolyte.....	28
8.2.2	Alkaline electrolyte.....	28
8.3	Protective equipment.....	28
8.4	Safety signs.....	29
8.5	Electrolyte burns.....	29
8.5.1	General.....	29
8.5.2	First aid treatment.....	30
8.6	Water supply.....	30
8.7	Precautions.....	30
8.7.1	General.....	30
8.7.2	During installation.....	30
8.7.3	During maintenance.....	31
8.8	Firefighting equipment.....	31
Appendix A	(informative) Corrections for the effects of electrolyte temperature in determining the capacity of lead-acid batteries.....	32
Appendix B	(informative) A method of determining internal resistance.....	36
Appendix C	(informative) Typical direct current system earthing.....	38

Appendix D (informative) Typical battery stands	40
Appendix E (informative) Typical direct current system using two batteries	42
Appendix F (informative) Initial charging and commissioning of vented lead-acid batteries	43
Appendix G (informative) Nickel-cadmium alkaline batteries	45
Appendix H (informative) Typical battery report sheet	47
Appendix I (informative) Performance test	49
Appendix J (informative) Typical signs	52
Bibliography	54

Introduction

Both the ampere-hour capacity and voltage of battery installations have increased to the point where some voltages now border on the medium and high voltage range. Even in extra-low voltage installations, the low internal resistances of batteries under short-circuit conditions can cause severe injuries to staff working on a battery or cell, or cause fire and explosion.

Tests have shown that batteries of 24 V d.c. and above may present problems in breaking fault currents and that additional precautions need to be taken to reduce the possibility of accidental short-circuits.

In preparing this Standard, the Committee considered the requirements of both vented lead-acid cells and vented alkaline cells.

Australian Standard®

Installation, maintenance, testing and replacement of secondary batteries in buildings

Part 1: Vented cells

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This Standard sets out requirements and provides guidance for the installation, maintenance, testing and replacement of vented secondary batteries permanently installed in buildings, structures or premises.

This Standard covers secondary batteries with a nominal voltage of 24 V or greater, and a capacity exceeding 10 A.h at the 1 h rate. It includes batteries comprising vented lead-acid cells and alkaline batteries comprising vented cells (such as nickel-cadmium cells).

This Standard covers requirements for components of the d.c. system of which the battery is a part, where these components comprise an essential part of the d.c. system.

This Standard covers vented cells only. The installation and maintenance of sealed cells are covered by AS 3011.2 and AS 2676.2.

NOTE 1 Requirements specifically applicable to the design and installation of extra-low voltage (d.c.) power supplies that are used by telecommunications carriers in the provision of public telecommunications networks are given in AS/NZS 3015.

NOTE 2 General installation and safety requirements for battery energy storage systems (BESSs) are given in AS/NZS 5139.

1.2 Application

This Standard is to be read in conjunction with AS 3011.1.

1.3 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document.

NOTE Documents for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS 1170.4, *Structural design actions, Part 4: Earthquake actions in Australia*

AS 1319, *Safety signs for the occupational environment*

AS 2668, *Water for use in secondary batteries*

AS 2669, *Sulphuric acid for use in lead-acid batteries*

AS 3011.1, *Electrical installations — Secondary batteries installed in buildings, Part 1: Vented cells*

AS/NZS 3000, *Electrical installations (known as the Australian/New Zealand Wiring Rules)*

AS/NZS 61439.1, *Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies, Part 1: General rules (IEC 61439-1, Ed. 2.0 (2011), MOD)*