§ 111.15–10 Ventilation.

(a) General. Each room, locker, and box for storage batteries must be arranged or ventilated to prevent accumulation of flammable gas.

(b) Power ventilation. If power ventilation is required, the following must be met:

(1) The power ventilation system must be separate from ventilation systems for other spaces.

(2) Electric motors must be outside the duct and compartment and:

(i) Have an explosion-proof motor for a Class I, Division 1, Group B location; or

(ii) Be at least 10 ft. (3 m) from the exhaust end of the duct.

(3) Each blower must have a non-sparking fan.

(4) The power ventilation system must be interlocked with the battery tray to prevent movement, and each tray must have non-absorbent insulating supports on the bottom and similar spacer blocks at the sides, or equivalent provisions for air circulation space all around each tray. Each battery tray must provide adequate accessibility for installation, maintenance, and removal of the batteries.

(e) Nameplates. Each battery must be provided with the name of its manufacturer, model number, type designation, either the cold cranking amp rating or the amp-hour rating at a specific discharge and, for a lead-acid battery, the fully charged specific gravity value. This information must be permanently fixed to the battery.

(f) Lining in battery rooms and lockers. (1) Each battery room and locker must have a watertight lining that is—

(i) On each shelf to a height of at least 76 mm (3 inches); or

(ii) On the deck to a height of at least 152 mm (6 inches).

(2) For lead-acid batteries, the lining must be 1.6 mm (1/16 inch) thick lead or other material that is corrosion-resistant to the electrolyte of the battery.

(3) For alkaline batteries, the lining must be 0.8 mm (1/32 inch) thick steel or other material that is corrosion-resistant to the electrolyte of the battery.

(g) Lining of battery boxes. Each battery box must have a watertight lining to a height of at least 76 mm (3 inches) that meets paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of this section.

§ 111.15–20 Charger so that the battery cannot be charged without ventilation.

(c) Large battery installations. Each battery room for large battery installations must have a power exhaust ventilation system and have openings for intake air near the floor that allow the passage of the quantity of air that must be expelled. The quantity of the air expelled must be at least:

\[ q = 3.89(i)(n) \]

where: \( q \) = quantity of expelled air in cubic feet per hour.
\( i \) = Maximum charging current during gas formation, or one-fourth of the maximum obtainable charging current of the charging facility, whichever is greater.
\( n \) = Number of cells.

(d) Moderate and small battery installations. Each battery room or battery locker for moderate or small battery installations must have louvers near the bottom of the room or locker for air, and must be ventilated by:

(1) Ventilation that meets paragraph (c) of this section;
(2) An exhaust duct:
   (i) That ends in a mechanically ventilated space or in the weather;
   (ii) That extends from the top of the room or locker to at least 3 ft. (1 m) above the top of the room or locker;
   (iii) That is at an angle of 45 degrees or less from the vertical; and
   (iv) That has no appliances, such as flame arresters, that impede free passage of air or gas mixtures; or
(3) A duct from the top of the room or locker to an exhaust ventilation duct.

(e) Deck boxes. Except for a deck box for a small battery installation, each deck box must have a duct from the top of the box to at least 4 ft. (1.2 m) above the box ending in a gooseneck or mushroom head that prevents entrance of water. Holes for air must be on at least two parallel sides of each box.

(f) Weathertight. Each deck box must be weathertight.

(g) Boxes for small battery installations. Each box for a small battery installation must have openings near the top to allow escape of gas. If the installation is in a non-environmentally-controlled location, the installation must prevent the ingress of water.


§ 111.15–20 Conductors.

(a) Each conductor penetration to a battery room must be made watertight.

(b) The termination of each cable must be sealed to prevent the entrance of electrolyte by spray or creepage.

(c) Each connecting cable must have sufficient capacity to carry the maximum charging current or maximum discharge current, whichever is greater, while maintaining the proper voltage at the load end.


§ 111.15–25 Overload and reverse current protection.

(a) An overload protective device must be in each battery conductor, except conductors of engine cranking batteries and batteries with a nominal potential of 6 volts or less. For large storage battery installations, the overcurrent protective devices must be next to, but outside of, the battery room.

(b) Except when a rectifier is used, the charging equipment for all batteries with a nominal voltage more than 20 percent of line voltage must protect automatically against reversal of current.

§ 111.15–30 Battery chargers.

Each battery charger enclosure must meet §111.01–9. Additionally, each charger must be suitable for the size and type of battery installation that it serves. Chargers incorporating grounded autotransformers must not be used. Except for rectifiers, chargers with a voltage exceeding 20 percent of the line voltage must be provided with automatic protection against reversal of current.