S34 – Toolbox Talk

Workshop Safety – Batteries

The major aspects to consider when charging and removing batteries are:

→ Explosion of a battery, and
→ Burns to the skin and eyes.

General

→ Never smoke near batteries
→ Always wear protective gloves and goggles when handling or cleaning batteries
→ Never tilt a battery more than is necessary in any direction as acid spillage may occur
→ Always switch off the ignition before attending to a battery.

Charging

→ Always charge batteries in a well ventilated area. Raise the battery cover to aid ventilation. Make sure that there are no sources of ignition in the area
→ Make sure the battery is correctly topped up with distilled water only
→ Do not switch on the charger until it is correctly connected, ie positive to positive and negative to negative
→ Do not exceed the battery supplier’s recommended charging rate
→ Switch off the charger before disconnecting leads
→ Do not use a quick charging unit when an alternator is connected to a battery as this will damage the alternator.

Auxiliary (Jump) Starting

→ Never connect a fully charged battery to a completely discharged battery. This can cause one of them to burst
→ Familiarise yourself with all the terminal markings and lead connections before attaching any jump leads
→ Make sure that both batteries are the same voltage
→ Check that the vehicles are not touching
→ Turn off the ignition in both vehicles
→ Check the polarity of both vehicles - is it negative or positive earth? If the polarity is different, do not proceed unless you remove the good battery completely from the vehicle
→ Connect the non-earthed terminal of the flat battery to the non-earthed terminal of the good battery
→ Connect the second lead to the earthed terminal of the good battery
→ Connect the other end of the second lead to a suitable substantial unpainted point on the chassis of the other vehicle, well away from fuel lines
→ Check that the leads are well clear of moving parts
→ Start the engine of the good vehicle
→ Start the engine of the dead vehicle, and allow to idle for some time before switching off and disconnecting the leads in the reverse order to above.

Training register

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Name of attendee                                                              Signature
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