

Forum Question: Use of Second Battery

Dear NETS Members,

August 3, 2010

Rina Muscedere of Spectra Energy asked a question about the use of a second vehicle battery.

Responses follow Rina's question.

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Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

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NETS
Executive Director
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Question

In the past (1990's) (Spectra) used a second, lead acid battery mounted behind the bulkhead in our vans. Then we started to use a marine gel cell. Ford offered a second battery for a period of time mounted externally on the right frame rail under the track. We went away from the second battery for a period of time, but with the power concerns we are experiencing we started to install the second battery again. Model year 2009 had the battery behind the passenger seat.

Our employees have the following concerns: Off-gassing when the battery is being discharged or over-charged and battery acid leaking onto the driver in the event of a collision
We were wondering if:

- 1) You have heard about any issues with a second battery installed behind the passenger seat, if so, what were they?
- 2) Are you installing a second battery behind the driver's seat? What type?

I have attached two documents with respect to the battery.


MSDS Lifeline
Battery.pdf


Technical Manual
Lifeline.pdf

Thank you,

Rina Muscedere
Spectra Energy
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Response

	Use of Second Battery
DHL <i>Phil Renaud</i> <i>phil.renaud@exel.com</i>	<p>Not sure of the purpose for the second battery? maybe running some additional electrical equipment, although this would indicate to me to fit a heavier duty single battery unit and/ or charging system providing more AMP hrs and increased resistance to discharge, or fitting two batteries in parallel (this may be the root of the question however).</p> <p>Second battery could be fitted inside (i.e, in a proper battery box and secured) but vented outside the driver environment for the reasons brought about by the drivers e.g gassing (albeit low amounts) and other issues, gel filled batteries would be better for preventing acid leakage in an accident although the "fully sealed" acid units are also very good for containment and don't gas like a maintainable acid battery.</p> <p>Wonder if they've considered heavy duty solar chargers which can be permanently fixed to the vehicle/ battery to boost the charging system.</p>