Stationary lead acid battery

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After hundreds of site visits, multiple battery systems tests, and the examination of numerous maintenance records, I would say that almost 50 percent of all stationary lead-acid batteries are not being properly charged.

Constant-Current Charging: Not generally used for stationary batteries except during the manufacturing process.

Constant-Potential / Constant Voltage Charging: Used in communications, UPS, IT, and utility applications - where the charging circuit is current limited, the voltage is maintained until a predetermined value is reached, and then the voltage is maintained constant. With constant potential charging, the charge current will decrease to a stable value as the battery becomes fully charged.

Float Charge: Used with all stationary lead-acid batteries, this is a low-rate constant-potential charge used to maintain the battery in a fully charged condition.

Equalize Charging: Mainly used with Vented Lead-Acid (VLA) batteries, it"s similar to a boost charge where a voltage higher than the float voltage is applied to a battery to correct voltage or specific gravity (SG) inequalities among battery cells.

Freshening Charge: A charge given to a battery following its nonuse or storage in order to return it to a near maximum state of charge and to mitigate the effects of self-discharge.

Initialization Charge: A charge given to a battery upon installation.

Pulse Charging: Occasionally used for stationary batteries, pulse technology is when a series of voltage or current pulses are applied to a battery.

Intermittent Charge: Mainly used for UPS applications, the battery is charged until a certain voltage is reached and then allowed to discharge to a preset low voltage when the charger is switched on again.

Properly charging your lead acid batteries will effectively help you avoid common problems associated with the following:

Charge Current Limit: Verify the manufacturer"s specified charging current by taking the Capacity (C) divided by a number - e.g., a 100 Ampere hour (Ah) with a C/5 would be 100/5 = 20 amps.

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