

THE Accumulator

NEWS from G & P Batteries Limited

Site Re-development underway

Following the major fire at G & P in March, work is now underway to re-develop the site. Contractors have moved in and demolition work to clear the fire-damaged administration block and warehousing is almost complete. See page 2 for more photographs of the site.

To help ease pressure on space, a number of portacabins have been erected adjacent to the car park. These are mainly for storage purposes, although Managing Director Michael Green is located in his own small portacabin within the temporary facilities.

"In the immediate aftermath of the fire I had set up my desk in the old reception area but as time went on this was proving impractical," he commented. "Whilst being in a separate office is not ideal, it does at least create a little more breathing space for the rest of the team until our new, purpose built administration block is completed."



Business continues as usual for the G & P team, albeit in rather cramped working conditions. Everyone is looking forward to the day when they can move into the new administration facility, which hopefully will be towards the end of the year.

Fire Damaged Batteries can still be recycled



Clearing the site of the batteries caught up in the fire continues, a task that requires them to be collected and stored prior to being shipped for recycling. "We are still not certain of the final outcome from this work, but we have been surprised by the large number of batteries that have survived the fire. Confidence is growing that we will be able to recycle around 90% of the waste batteries involved, which is very positive news," said Managing Director Michael Green.

Come and See Us at RWM

Once again, G & P is exhibiting at RWM at the NEC Birmingham. If you are attending the exhibition, which runs from Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th September, please drop in and see us in Hall 17, Stand 802.



**contact us on
0121 568 3200**

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New accommodation for Site Operations

For some time G & P has been working on expansion plans for their site in Darlaston, which included taking on a new warehouse adjacent to the existing yard area.

The fact that these plans were well advanced made recovery from the fire a little easier. "At the beginning of the year we had already started making plans to extend our current administration facilities to meet the requirements of a growing business," revealed Michael Green. "It was very fortunate that we were within only a few weeks of finalising the acquisition of a facility of just over 1,000 square metres which adjoins our existing site. We plan to build our new offices inside this warehouse, along with a dedicated sorting area for incoming waste portable batteries. This will be good news for the Site Operations team, whose sorting warehouse was destroyed in the fire. Since then they have been sorting batteries in the open air, facing rain, hail, wind and snow, so they more than any of us will be hoping for a warm, dry summer.



"The site operations team (pictured above) has, perhaps more than any of us, borne the real brunt of the aftermath of the fire," said Michael Green. "They have continued to undertake exacting work in extremely difficult conditions, and these efforts have helped enormously with our business continuity."

Site Cleared of Fire Damage

Clearing the extensive damage caused by the fire is a major project, which has involved the demolition of the rear of the site at G & P's Darlaston headquarters. These pictures show the extent of the damage and how the site is being cleared for re-development.



G & P's Steve is the youngest NEBOSH achiever



Nineteen year old Steve Gough is believed to be the youngest person to date to have achieved the NEBOSH (National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health) certificate in health and safety.

Site operative Steve (pictured left) is one of 15 staff at G & P who have been put through the rigorous 10-week training course as part of the company's commitment to ensuring the highest possible levels of training for all staff.

Operations Director Miles Freeman explained that currently more than a quarter of the operational workforce has been on the NEBOSH programme over the last six months and the remaining members of the 50-strong team will undertake the course during 2008/9. "At G&P Batteries we take Health, Safety and Environmental issues very seriously and do our utmost to ensure that all employees, irrespective of their age, are trained to a very high standard in these areas of the business. As the NEBOSH certificate is a challenging qualification in Health & Safety, we are delighted that Steve has passed the course. He should be very proud of his achievements, as are we." Added Steve: "It was hard work and there was lots of studying to do as well as two exams. It's a big achievement and I'm very pleased to have passed."

Batteries Directive Update

The UK has until 26th September 2008 to transpose the new European Batteries Directive into UK law. It is not yet clear precisely how the UK will do this, and so it is not possible at this stage to say with certainty how this new legislation will affect producers and users of batteries.

You may be aware that BERR has just undertaken a second consultation regarding the Single Market aspects of the Batteries Directive, and we expect the results of this consultation, along with more detail of how UK Government intend to implement the Directive later in the summer.

It is still not clear what the implications of the Batteries Directive are for the industry or how it will finally be implemented. G & P believes that one crucial area still to be addressed is the clarity of standards for meeting the proposed 50% recycling efficiency targets. "Until we know the detailed definition of what can and cannot be included in the calculation of the recycling efficiency it is not possible for the industry to invest in the necessary recycling processes within the UK," said Michael Green.

Meet The Teams

In each edition we will focus on a particular section of the business and offer readers an opportunity to 'Meet the Team'. This month we focus on the Service Support team.

The Service Support team is the first port of call for all customers. They receive all incoming collection requests, administer much of the material movements, sort out customer queries and deal with general day-to-day communication. They also support the administrative and IT side of the business.

They are a key interface between other departments within G & P and work most closely with the sales team and with the transport department to make sure that all customer requests are dealt with promptly and happen when they should. They also ensure that all the correct data about collections made goes to the Environment Agency on a quarterly basis.

The Service Support team is headed by Paula Layton. Paula has a dual role as, in addition to leading the team, she is also the PA to Managing Director Michael Green. She has been with G & P Batteries for four years. Amy Price has been with G & P since 2005 and her main responsibility is looking after IT. Kayla Jones has been with G & P just over a year and loves her job at G & P. Kim Henry is the newest member of the team, having joined G & P six months ago.



The Service Support team, pictured left to right: Amy, Kayla, Paula and Kim

A Summary of key points of the Batteries Directive

- **Classification of Batteries**
 - The Directive classifies batteries in three ways: automotive, industrial and portable.
- **Producer Responsibility**
 - Producers of batteries will be responsible for meeting all the costs associated with achieving the targets set by the Directive.
 - All producers of batteries will have to register and provide sales data (to enable collection rates to be monitored).
 - End users of portable and automotive batteries will be able to return their batteries for recycling free of charge.
- **Collection Target**
 - The directive requires that 25% of all batteries must be collected by September 2012, rising to 40% of all batteries by 2016. (The UK currently collects over 90% of all Automotive batteries, but only about 3% of portable batteries).
- **Recycling Efficiency**

The directive also sets targets for the recycling standards of the collected batteries:-

 - All collected batteries must enter a recycling process. For Nicad batteries the recycling process must achieve a 75% recycling efficiency, i.e. 75% of the contents of the received batteries must be recovered for re-use.
 - For Lead Acid batteries the recycling process must achieve a 65% recycling efficiency.
 - For all other batteries the recycling process must achieve a 50% recycling efficiency.
- **Prohibition of Heavy Metals**
 - Levels of mercury and cadmium are strictly controlled.
- **Labelling Requirements**
 - Batteries containing mercury, cadmium and lead must meet labelling requirements.
 - There is a requirement to label certain batteries with their capacity.

STOP PRESS

BERR (Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) have just issued the Government response to the consultation document on the implementation of the Batteries Directive. We will be publishing our reaction to this in our next edition, but visit our website www.g-pbatt.co.uk for more immediate feedback.

Beware Trailing Wires

The fire at G & P is believed to have started by terminal leads being left on a battery which shorted.

We are aware of a number of incidents where batteries have caught fire, including loads in transit and it is our belief that the shorting out of cables is the most likely cause of this. Thankfully, most of these incidents have been without major damage to personnel or property. However, it does prompt us to advise all customers to treat their waste batteries with respect, in terms of both storage and transport arrangements.



Remember, too, that ADR legislation states that it is the responsibility of the site despatching the goods to make sure a load is safe to transport.

Battery packs with trailing wires from terminals pose a considerable fire hazard because all batteries contain a residual charge and this can be quite significant in the case of stand-by battery

applications. Whilst most cables have some sort of clip attachment during their useful life, it is quite likely that they can get snagged or pulled off during storage and transit. The bare ends of the wires can then easily touch each other, creating a short circuit and thereby heating the wires, which can then cause the insulation of the wires to catch fire. Therefore, it is vital to eliminate the risk of short circuits during storage and transit by removing all trailing wires.

Responsible packing of batteries for storage and transport will also help reduce the risk of accidental fire. Even when batteries are considered to be at the end of their lives, it cannot be assumed that they are fully discharged. If they are packed in such a way that their terminals could come into contact with each other, there is a risk that a short circuit could be caused, potentially causing a fire.

Batteries that have come out of critical applications where they have been on continuous float charge (for example for emergency back-up or alarm batteries) are particularly susceptible to this, especially if they have been replaced on a planned maintenance basis rather than reaching the end of their lives. We therefore recommend that all waste batteries are handled, stored and transported as if they contain a full charge.

Lithium batteries in particular require special handling because they are highly flammable and potentially explosive. There are separate UN packing requirements covering the transport of lithium batteries and it is essential that great care is taken when packing loads that predominantly contain lithium batteries.

Most portable batteries either have terminals at opposite ends of the battery or do not have terminals that protrude, so the chance of a short circuit is very low. If you have concerns place batteries in individual plastic bags or put a small amount of electrical tape over the terminals.

Waste battery storage is about care and common sense but there is often confusion about what is the best method of storage for batteries, which is why G & P offers customers a wide range of Battery Banks for safe and compliant storage of batteries prior to collection as well as a generic risk assessment for the safe storage and handling of waste batteries.

If you would like further information or advice on the storage and packing of waste batteries or on our Risk Assessment service please contact G & P's Service Support team on 0121 568 3200.

Glastonbury Stars use G & P's unique BattBox

Stars performing at this year's Glastonbury festival had every opportunity to dispose of their waste batteries for recycling responsibly in our stylish BattBoxes, which were deployed in a number of areas including the dressing rooms at the festival.

In keeping with their quest to hold the world's leading greenest and cleanest festival organisers turned to the Internet to find a route for responsible recycling of their waste batteries. Their search identified G & P's service and arrangements were quickly made for G & P to supply a range of Battery Banks, including 100 BattBoxes, which were situated in backstage areas including dressing rooms. Two cylindrical Battery Banks were placed either side of the Pyramid Stage and a large Battery Bank was held behind the scenes for transferring batteries from the smaller containers prior to despatch back to Darlaston to be sorted and recycled by G & P.

Glastonbury's Recycling Crew Coordinator, Andy Willcott, said: "The festival generates a lot of waste batteries, from microphones, headphones, radios and other equipment used during performances. The Pyramid Stage Manager suggested finding a dedicated battery recycling route and we were pleased that G & P were able to offer this valuable service."



Picture by Gary Baker