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# Snake oil for your batteries

c&a

innovations

Although not new, this product is a great innovation and until now a bit of a secret. The company, Thermoil, produces an additive for lead acid batteries and claims it can double or even treble their life, while making them safer and maintaining performance for longer.

The way the additive works is simple enough, but its formulation has taken quite a while and on which the patent rests. Essentially the product 'Battery Demister' lays down a layer of inert oil on top of the batteries electrolyte (acid/water mix) so that the hydrogen and oxygen bubbles which rise rapidly through the electrolyte particularly when over-charging, are slowed before reaching

the top, virtually eliminating the sulfuric acid mist forced out the vent during the charging process.

The oil condenses the hydrogen and oxygen gases, returning the water molecules back into the cell.

With virtually no mist and much less gassing, the battery top remains free of acid deposits, whilst the chemistry of the electrolyte is maintained, greatly reducing water consumption, toxic fumes, explosion risk and post and cable corrosion, while reducing the need to clean the battery, cables and battery tray as often.

Adding the solution is extremely easy, taking just a few minutes, while the cost per battery depends on how much

Battery Demister helps maintain electrolyte chemical composition.



of the additive you purchase, but averages around \$14 (£10) with a full money back satisfaction guarantee. In fact the company encourages you to run a trial by treating only half the batteries on a machine and watching the difference.

Battery Demister additive claims to double or triple battery life.



## Scissor lift security

The Equipment Lock Company has launched a new anti-theft product for small electric scissor lifts.

Dubbed 'The Cushion Tire Lift Lock' it is intended for use with all scissor lifts or fork trucks that use hard rubber cushion-type

*The Cushion tyre lift lock prevents a lift from being stolen.*

tyres. By clamping on to one of the steered wheels, it secures it in a turned position, preventing the lift from being stolen or 'borrowed'.

The new lock can have multiple units with the same key or keys to suit customer preference. It is also planned to offer a combination lock version Later this year.

## RFID Security and tagging

Enigma Vehicle Systems has introduced a new RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tagging and control system that could be ideal for multi-operator products such as telehandlers and aerial lifts.

The new e-driver and e-pass systems use passive RFID technology to track vehicle users utilising RFID tags in a variety of formats such as plastic teardrop, stick-on or credit card/ID cards.

Both systems are based on Enigma's Skyline v6.1 satellite vehicle tracking, security and telematics system and have been designed originally for bus use.

The vehicle will not start unless the

driver's tag is presented and once the tag ID is read and accepted, the driver's name is mapped onto the Skyline server clearly identifying the operator for the period the vehicle is being used.

Not only can the system track the operator, but it can also prevent unauthorised use. The reporting suite in Skyline V6.1, keeps a log of who was in a vehicle, for how long and where it was taken. For road vehicles the e-driver system also provides a useful audit trail to enable traffic violations and accidents to be traced to the driver.

All e-driver tags are compatible with e-pass tags allowing them to be deployed site-wide. The systems



*The Enigma e-driver was originally introduced for bus control on sites in the middle east*

have been designed for use with site buses, providing the identities of both the drivers and passengers, allowing companies to monitor and optimise fleet use based on utilisation data.

In the case of the passengers, site managers have a dedicated passenger manifest for each trip by vehicle, with the knowledge of who is at work and who has left site. In the case of an accident, knowledge of the passengers' identities allows

notification to be passed to relatives and access to employee health records.

**Other options available on the Skyline system include:**

- Optional keypad immobiliser with remote immobilisation feature.
- Text polling from mobile phone.
- PDA access with street level images.
- Lone Worker Protection.
- Portable, personal tracking with voice capability.

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