



"Containment or Compliance?" Dispelling the Myths.

Introduction: Spill containment is a requirement of federal, state and local fire and hazardous material codes, regulations, ordinances and guidelines. While these vary by municipality, recent fire codes for stand-by battery systems call for approved methods and materials for acid spill control and neutralization. When viewed as a commodity, spill containment materials appear to have similar traits and features.

Problem: What differentiates containment from compliance? Compliance is a prevalent business concern as IT executives and standards engineers must deal with ever increasing regulations including financial, hazmat, "green" policies and other business controls to ensure share holder equity. What is required for compliance is not always clearly understood.

When used in stand-by power systems, which support mission critical equipment or communications equipment, additional criteria for spill containment systems must be considered; size of supplier, nationally recognized approvals, ISO9001 quality systems, end-of-life disposal/recycling, nationwide installation and support, and Supplier core competencies.

Impact: Supplier performance and qualifications are important for compliance since suppliers of containment products are extremely small compared to the end users that are very large, typically enterprise clients that will endure for many years to come (MSN, Verizon, Bank of America, etc.). Compliance is built on industry intelligence, technology, knowledge exchanges and features. On-going nationwide support is required to avoid hidden lifecycle and maintenance costs.

Solutions: A primary compliance consideration for building products including stand-by power systems is UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approvals. Engineers and contractors must specify and use UL Listed products when available as due diligence in limiting liabilities and ensuring facility safety. Features are important but upholding standards are of the utmost importance and must be the first consideration. Features are then used to fit product to application needs.

Compliance Criteria

- UL Listed Approvals
- NEBS Seismic Certification (as needed)
- ISO 9001 Quality System
- Compliance Knowledge Center
- Nationwide installation and support
- End-of-use disposal/recycling (green)
- Patented Technology (liner based)

Containment Features

- Acid Resistant Liner
- 4" High barriers
- Neutralization and absorption pillows
- Class 1 Fire Rated (NFPA 101)
- Acid indicator
- Quik-lock installation
- Drilling template

Added Value: UL is the only recognized independent testing laboratory recognized by Fire and Building inspectors for safety. This is NOT a feature. It's a compliance requirement NOT to be challenged; it is "force majeure" to have compliance verses containment. The benefits of compliance are cost savings, on-time projects, lower risks and liabilities, and meeting the compliance requirements of ALL potential compliance enforcers that look beyond codes and regulations, including facility owners, commercial insurers and corporate environmental and IT managers.

Conclusion: Choose products based on compliance criteria first then consider features to fit the application to ensure due diligence, compliance astuteness, national approval, lifecycle support and lowest cost of ownership. Selecting Suppliers and Manufacturers that provides a framework of tools, knowledge, education and consulting will enable a clear understanding of compliance to minimize risks and retain shareholder equity.

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