Transporting Spent Lead Acid Batteries

The requirements to properly transport Lead Acid Batteries are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, and Section 173.159(e), which states:

(e) Electric storage batteries containing electrolyte or corrosive battery fluid are not subject to the requirements of this subchapter for transportation by highway or rail if all of the following requirements are met:

(1) No other hazardous materials may be transported in the same vehicle;
(2) The batteries must be blocked and braced so as to prevent damage and short circuits in transit;
(3) Any other material loaded in the same vehicle must be blocked, braced, or otherwise secured to prevent contact with or damage to the batteries; and
(4) The transport vehicle may not carry material shipped by any person other than the shipper of the batteries.

The instructions below should be used as a guideline for preparing your spent batteries for transportation. Each step listed satisfies one or more of these requirements and therefore no step should be skipped.

Preparing Spent Lead Acid Batteries for Shipment

1. Place a sheet of cardboard on top of the empty pallet you will be using.

2. Stack the first layer of batteries neatly on the pallet. *

3. Place a piece of one-inch thick honeycomb on top of the first layer to prevent both the terminals from shorting and breaking the bottoms of the batteries above.

4. Stack the second layer of batteries neatly on the pallet.

5. Place a piece of cardboard over the entire second layer to prevent the terminals from shorting.

6. Strap the batteries to the skid at each corner using ½” polypropylene strapping.

7. Apply stretch wrap wound tightly around the batteries and the pallet to hold everything in place.

8. Call MK Battery at 1-800-372-9253 and inform them that you have spent batteries that need to be recycled.

* Any battery that has been damaged and has the potential to leak, must first be placed in another container capable of holding its contents.