![Network Rail logo]

**No: NRS 308**

# Network Rail Safety Bulletin

## Sonatest RS125 Battery Packs

## For the attention of all Ultrasonics staff and contractors

### Background:

Recently a re-chargeable battery pack for a Sonatest RS125 flaw detector unit exploded whilst it was charging in the back of a Network Rail Maintenance van. No one was injured in the incident but extensive damage was caused to the battery and the Sperry RSU. Investigations suggest that the Sonatest battery may have been charged at some point using the charger for the Sperry rail walking stick.

The Sperry charger connector fits the Sonatest unit, but charges at a significantly higher rate than the Sonatest charger, hence they are not compatible.



### Immediate Action Required by all persons affected:

**All staff should adopt the following general safety precautions when using re-chargeable batteries:**

1. Sonatest RS125 batteries must be inspected prior to use; if there are any signs of damage the battery must be quarantined and a replacement sought.
2. If there is any suspicion that a Sonatest RS125 battery may have been charged using a Sperry charger then it should be taken out of service immediately, quarantined and a replacement battery provided.
3. If you are unsure if a battery is faulty or damaged consult your supervisor immediately.
4. Batteries should always be transported in the non-passenger compartment of a road vehicle.
5. Keep ultrasonic equipment and their batteries away from heat sources, such as radiators or vehicle fan heaters.
6. Always use the correct charging equipment for the battery being charged.
7. Unplug the charger before removing batteries or connections to the equipment being charged.
8. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
9. Do not charge this equipment at home.

**All managers/supervisors with responsibility for ultrasonic staff and equipment should:-**

1. Brief ultrasonic staff (or any others involved in re-charging ultrasonic batteries) on the contents of this bulletin.
2. Immediately implement a system of identifying the correct batteries with chargers, using tagging/colour coding for easy recognition.

Suggested example of a tagging system: