

TECHNICAL NOTE

April 2, 2003

SUBJECT: Use of Non-DATATRACE Batteries in DATATRACE Equipment

PROBLEM: Periodically a DATATRACE Tracer is returned for service with a battery that was not supplied by DATATRACE. It is important to note that use of non authorized batteries can create a significant problem in the reliability and operational characteristics of your DATATRACE equipment.

Mesa Laboratories, Inc. requires that only batteries supplied by DATATRACE be used in DATATRACE Tracers. All other batteries are considered non-authorized and void all warranties.

The DATATRACE Tracers were designed with a specific battery included in the design. These special DATATRACE batteries are not commonly available and in some cases are unique to DATATRACE.

In most cases, non-DATATRACE batteries are not rated for the temperatures that DATATRACE Tracers routinely experience. Batteries exposed to temperatures for which they are not rated can damage equipment and create personal hazards for the operators. Using any battery above its rated temperature should not be allowed.

Replacing the DATATRACE battery with a non-DATATRACE approved battery type may cause the Tracer to malfunction, function in ways not tested or expected, and, in some cases, destroy the Tracer's electronic circuits. Obviously, this situation would void any and all warranties supplied with the Tracer by Mesa Laboratories.

In addition to potential functional problems with the Tracer caused by non-DATATRACE batteries, regulatory ratings, such as Intrinsic Safety, EC, and others are voided by the use of non-DATATRACE batteries. These ratings were achieved with a specific design configuration following extensive testing. When a component such as the battery is changed, the circuit (Tracer) must be retested and go through the approval process again in order to retain these regulatory approvals.

While it may appear that alternative batteries are "the same" as DATATRACE batteries, they are not. Any cost savings that might be obtained would be mitigated by the risk associated with these activities.

Again, Mesa Laboratories, Inc. requires that only batteries supplied by DATATRACE be used in DATATRACE Tracers.