



ATTENTION: TP&D, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ENGINEERS
MEMORANDUM

SPECIAL PROVISION AND/OR SPECIFICATION CHANGE MEMORANDUM 26-12

TO: District Engineers **Date:** September 18, 2012

FROM: John F. Obr, P. E. 
Construction Division Director

SUBJECT: Statewide Special Specification 8317 (04), "Battery Back-Up System for Signal Cabinets"

The above-referenced special specification has been approved for statewide use and is required for all projects beginning with the January 2013 letting. This special specification replaces all previous special specifications for Battery Back-Up (BBU) Systems.

This special specification provides for a BBU system for traffic signals to provide reliable emergency power in the event of utility power failure or interruption.

Please disseminate this information to your Transportation Planning & Development, Design, Construction, Maintenance, and Traffic Operations Engineers.

cc: TxDOT Specification Committee
Federal Highway Administration
The Associated General Contractors of Texas

SPECIAL SPECIFICATION

8317

Battery Back-Up System for Signal Cabinets

- 1. Description:** Install a Battery Back-Up System (BBU System) for traffic signals that will provide reliable emergency power in the event of utility power failure or interruption. The system will also function as a power conditioner and/or voltage regulation device.

A BBU System consists of inverter/charger, manual bypass switch, power transfer switch or automatic bypass switch, batteries, battery monitoring device, wiring, external cabinet or stand-alone cabinet, concrete pad, all necessary hardware and software, and all associated equipment required to operate in a field environment.

The BBU System shall be capable of operating an “LED only” signalized intersection (700W load) for 4 hours of full runtime when utility power is disabled and under ambient temperatures of 25°C. The BBU System shall switch the intersection to flash mode of operation when approximately 40% of battery charge is remaining, via relay contact connection points on the front panel of the unit. The BBU system shall operate the intersection in the flash mode of operation (300W load) for an additional 2 hours. BBU system components shall be rated for a minimum 1400W load capacity.

The BBU shall be designed for outdoor applications in accordance with NEMA TS2-2003, Section 2. All components of the BBU system shall be rated to operate under temperature extremes of -34°C to +74°C.

- 2. Definitions.**

- A. Automatic Bypass Switch.** A unit connected between the utility power supply and the inverter/charger which can automatically switch power to the controller cabinet service panel from inverter output power to utility line power.
- B. Battery Back-Up System (BBU System).** The battery back-up system includes but is not limited to a manual bypass switch, automatic bypass switch or power transfer switch, inverter/charger, batteries, battery monitoring device, wiring, external cabinet and all necessary hardware for system operation.
- C. Battery Back-Up System Software (BBU System software).** All software associated with operation, programming and functional requirements of the BBU system.
- D. Battery Monitoring Device.** The device which monitors battery temperatures and charge rate of the batteries used in the BBU system.
- E. Batteries.** Standard 12V batteries wired in series to create a 48VDC to 96VDC voltage storage.

- F. Boost.** When enabled, the BBU inverter/charger shall automatically switch into this mode to raise the utility line voltage when it drops below a preset limit. The limit may be user defined or use manufacturer default settings (typically 100V AC).
 - G. Buck.** When enabled, the unit shall automatically switch into this mode to reduce the utility line voltage when it rises above a preset limit. The limit may be user defined or use manufacturer default settings (typically 135V AC).
 - H. External or Stand-Alone Cabinet.** The structure which houses the system components and/or batteries for the BBU System.
 - I. Inverter/Charger.** The unit which converts the DC voltage input into 120 VAC output for the traffic signal cabinet to operate. As a minimum the inverter/charger shall be rated for 1400 watts.
 - J. Inverter Line Voltage.** The power supplied from the BBU system to the traffic signal cabinet from the BBU System inverter.
 - K. Manual Bypass.** Manual switch that allows user to bypass BBU power to service system equipment. Manual bypass switch switches utility line power directly to cabinet.
 - L. Power Transfer Switch.** A unit connected between the utility power supply and the inverter/charger which can automatically switch from utility line power to inverter output power. The power transfer relay may be a separate unit or combined with the manual bypass switch. In the event of battery voltage loss, the power transfer switch will automatically return to utility line power.
 - M. Signal Operation Mode.** A signalized intersection generating a 700W load when running in normal operation.
 - N. Signal Flash Mode.** A signalized intersection generating a 300W load when running in the flash mode of operation.
 - O. Utility Line Voltage.** The 120V AC power supplied to the BBU system.
- 3. Equipment.** Ensure electrical materials and construction methods conform to the current NEC and additional local utility requirements. Furnish new materials. Ensure all materials and construction methods conform to the details shown on the plans, the requirements of this Item, and the pertinent requirements of the following Items:
- Item 420, “Concrete Structures”
 - Item 620, “Electrical Conductors”

Provide and install a BBU system that is able to fulfill the following requirements:

- A. Method of Operation.** The BBU system shall operate using one or more of the following methods:
 - 1. Buck and Boost Method.** When the buck and boost functions are enabled they shall set the upper and lower control limit allowable for the utility line voltage.

If the utility line voltage fluctuates above or below the buck and boost values, the BBU system shall raise or lower the voltage by approximately 10-15% of the utility line voltage in an attempt to bring the voltage back into the upper and lower control limits. Buck and boost shall have preset manufacturer defaults.

If the utility line voltage falls above or below the functional capabilities of buck and boost, then the BBU system will transfer power from the utility line voltage to the inverter line voltage.

2. Stand-by Method. The stand-by method shall set upper and lower control limits for the utility line power. If the utility line voltage falls above or below the upper or lower control limits, then the BBU system will transfer power from the utility line voltage to the inverter line voltage.

3. Continuous Operating Mode, Double Conversion Method. The continuous method supplies the cabinet with inverter line voltage at all times. This method requires the disabling of buck and boost functions.

B. System Capabilities. The BBU system shall be capable of providing 1400W peak load, with a minimum of 80% inverter efficiency, for at least 10 seconds.

The BBU system shall be capable of providing 700W signal operation load for a minimum of 4 hours, and then switching to and providing 300W signal flash load for an additional 2 hours minimum, when batteries are fully charged.

When the BBU system is running on battery power, the inverter/charger shall be capable of allowing the voltage at which the transition from normal operating load to flash mode occurs (usually 47.5V) to be selected by a user, via relay contacts and connection points on the front panel of the inverter/charger.

The transfer time allowed, from disruption of normal utility line voltage to stabilized inverter line voltage from batteries, shall be less than 65 milliseconds. The same allowable transfer time shall also apply when switching from inverter line voltage to utility line voltage.

The BBU system shall bypass utility line voltage whenever the utility line voltage is outside of the manufacturer's default, or a user-programmed voltage range, $\pm 2VAC$.

When the utility line power has been restored to a normal operating voltage for more than a user defined setting (default 30 seconds), the BBU system shall transfer from inverter line voltage to utility line voltage. The BBU system shall be equipped to prevent a malfunction feedback to the cabinet or from feeding back to the utility service.

The BBU system shall be compatible with TS1, TS2 and Model 170/2070 controllers and cabinet components for full run-time operation.

The BBU system shall be shelf-mounted in TS1 and TS2 cabinets, and rack-mounted for Model 170/2070 332 cabinets. The manual bypass switch shall be able to be mounted on the shelf or side of cabinets. The interconnect cables shall be no less than 10 feet in length.

Relay contact wiring for each set of NO/NC relay contact closure terminals shall be no less than 6 feet long and #18 AWG wire. Use manufacturer recommendations for size of wire for any cables lengths greater than 10 feet.

The BBU system shall have lightning surge protection compliant with IEEE/ANSI C.62.41 latest edition and meeting all current UL1449 standards. Lightning surge protection shall be provided to the utility line voltage coming into the inverter/charger. The surge protection device shall be easily accessible and mounted externally from the inverter/charger.

The BBU system, including batteries and hardware, shall be easily replaceable and shall not require any special tools for installation.

The BBU system shall operate in automatic “fail-safe” mode. Should a breaker trip on the inverter/charger and/or the power transfer switch, the system will automatically operate from utility line power and bypass the BBU system.

As stated above, in addition to the inverter/charger, the BBU shall be provided with both an external manual bypass switch and either an external automatic transfer switch or external automatic bypass switch.

The BBU system shall be capable of logging up to 100 events. Events shall date- and time-stamp faults with utility line voltage and battery voltages. At the minimum, the BBU system shall log an event when:

- the utility line voltage falls above or below the upper or lower control limits,
- the BBU system automatically switches to battery power, and
- when self-monitoring BBU system components fail.

C. Displays, Controls, Diagnostics and Maintenance. The BBU system shall include a front panel display. All applicable programmable functions of the operational methods described in this specification shall be viewable from the front panel display.

All events described in Section 3.B shall be viewable from the front panel display.

The BBU system software shall be programmable from the front panel of the inverter/charger by means of a keyboard or momentary buttons allowing user to step through menu driven software.

A 10/100 Ethernet port shall be provided on the front panel of the inverter/charger.

A RS232 port shall be provided on the front panel of the inverter/charger.

The BBU system software shall be provided for the operational needs of the BBU system. The user/operator shall be able to access all system software via the Ethernet and RS232 ports on the front panel of the inverter/charger. The user shall be able to read logged events and change programmable parameters from the keyboard, laptop or local area network via the Ethernet port.

System software shall be upgradeable via the RS232 port on the front panel of the inverter/charger.

- D. Inverter/Charger.** The inverter/charger is the unit that provides the voltage regulation; power conditioning of utility line power; convert the DC voltage input into 120 VAC output for the traffic signal cabinet to operate; provides emergency backup power upon loss of utility power and provides for temperature compensated battery charging. As a minimum the inverter/charger shall be rated for 1400 watts. Provide a minimum of 6 sets of normally open (NO) and normally closed (NC) single-pole double-throw dry contact relay closures on the front face of the inverter/charger and labeled so as to identify each contact. The relay closures shall consist a set of NO/NC contact closures that shall be energized whenever the unit switches to battery power (contact shall be labeled or marked as “On Battery” or equivalent) and a second set of NO/NC contact closures shall be energized whenever the battery approaches 40% remaining capacity (contact shall be labeled or marked as “Low battery” or equivalent”), which will determine when the unit will switch from normal operation to flash. A third set of NO/NC contact closures shall be energized after a user settable time after the unit switches to battery power. The contact may be labeled “Timer. The remaining relays shall be user definable.

Operating temperature range for both the inverter/charger and power transfer relay shall be -34°C to +74°C. When battery power is used, the BBU system output voltage shall be between 110VAC and 125VAC, pure sine wave output, $\leq 3\%$ THD, 60Hz ± 3 Hz.

- E. Manual Bypass Switch.** The manual bypass switch shall be provided as a separate unit external to the inverter/charger unit. The manual bypass switch shall consist of housing, two position switch, terminal blocks, internal wiring, service outlet, circuit breakers and mounting hardware. All components shall be rated at a minimum of 240VAC / 30 amp. Provide the manual bypass switch with #8 terminal blocks. The manual bypass switch shall be 2 position and allow the user to switch utility line power directly to the cabinet service panel. The switch positions will provide the following functions. In the “Bypass” position the inverter is bypassed, utility power is removed from the BBU and passed directly to the signal power panel. In the “UPS” position the inverter / switch is powered and the signal circuits are supplied by the output of the inverter. When the manual bypass switch is in the “Bypass” position the user may replace the automatic bypass switch (or transfer switch) and the inverter/charger without interrupting power to the intersection. Provide the manual bypass switch with over current protection (20 Amp circuit breaker).
- F. Power Transfer Switch.** These requirements are for BBU systems provided with a power transfer switch. The power transfer switch will operate such that the inverter/charger input and cabinet power panel are supplied with power from the utility line, in the event that the utility line power is lost or requires conditioning (buck or boost) the power transfer switch will automatically connect the inverter/charger output to the cabinet power panel such that the inverter/charger output provides the power. In the event of inverter/charger failure, battery failure, or complete battery discharge, the power transfer shall revert to the NC (de-energized) state, where utility line power is connected to the cabinet service panel.

All wire to the power transfer switch from the manual bypass switch, to and from the inverter/ charger and from the manual bypass switch to utility power service shall be sized accordingly with system requirements.

G. Automatic Bypass Switch These requirements are for BBU systems provided with an automatic bypass switch. The automatic bypass switch will operate such that the inverter/charger input is supplied with power from the utility line and the cabinet power panel is supplied with power from the output of the inverter/charger. In the event of inverter/charger failure, battery failure, complete battery discharge, or other loss of power from the output of the inverter/charger, the automatic bypass switch shall revert to the NC (de-energized) state, where utility line power is connected to the cabinet service panel.

H. Batteries. Provide batteries from the same manufacturer/vendor of the BBU system.

Individual batteries shall be 12V type, and shall be easily replaceable and commonly available for purchase by common off-the-shelf equivalent.

Batteries shall be sized and rated to operate a 700W load for 4 hours (normal operation) followed by a 300W load for 2 hours (flash operation) for a total of 6 hours.

Battery configuration shall consist of 12V batteries arranged for total voltages of 48V, 60V, 72V, 84V or 96V.

Batteries shall be deep-discharge, sealed prismatic lead-calcium based, valve-regulated maintenance-free batteries.

Batteries shall operate over a temperature range of -34°C to +74°C.

Batteries shall indicate maximum recharge data and recharging cycles, and manufacturer defaults on the inverter/charger shall not allow the recharging process to exceed the batteries maximum values.

Battery interconnect wiring shall connect to the inverter unit via modular harness with red and black cabling that terminates into a typical power pole style connector. Harness shall be equipped with mating power flag style connectors for batteries and a single insulated plug-in style connection to inverter/charger unit. Harness shall allow batteries to be quickly and easily connected in any order and shall be keyed to ensure proper polarity and circuit configuration. A fusible link or device sized accordingly with system requirements and to protect against currents exceeding each battery current rating shall be provided within 3 inches of the negative and positive leads of each battery. Fusible links shall be insulated stranded wire.

Insulated covers shall be provided at the connection points (post) as to prevent accidental shorting.

Battery cables provided to connect battery to battery harness main cable shall be a minimum of 18 in. or long enough to accommodate the battery covers provided with the battery ground box, whichever is longer. Battery harness shall be sized accordingly with system requirements.

- I. Battery Monitoring System.** The BBU system shall use a temperature-compensated battery charging system. The charging system shall compensate over a range of 2.5 – 4.0 mV/°C per cell.

The temperature sensor shall be used to monitor the temperature and regulate the charge rate of the batteries. Unless required otherwise by the plans the temperature sensor wire shall be as follows:

- 8 feet long if external side-mounted cabinet is attached to existing controller cabinet.
- 8 feet long if batteries are housed in traffic signal base used for cabinet foundation and batteries are stored on shelf within base.
- 8 feet long if stand-alone cabinet is used.

Should the temperature sensor fail, the inverter/charger shall not allow the BBU system to overcharge the batteries. The BBU system shall provide an alarm should the temperature sensor fail.

Recharge time for the batteries to obtain 80% or more of full battery charge capacity shall not exceed 20 hours at 21°C (70°F).

Batteries shall not be charged when battery temperature exceeds 50°C ±3°C.

The BBU system shall monitor battery strings within a system and set a fault indicator if battery voltage falls below normal operating voltage.

J. Battery Housing.

- 1. External Battery Cabinet.** The external cabinet shall be NEMA type 3R all-aluminum with stainless-steel hardware, or approved equivalent. The external cabinet shall be designed to attach on the side of a TS2 size 6 base-mount cabinet. The batteries, inverter, transfer switches, manual bypass and all associated hardware shall be housed in the external cabinet.

The external cabinet shall be equipped with proper ventilation, electric fan, and air filter in accordance with TS2 standards.

External cabinets will be equipped with a door opening to the entire cabinet. The door shall be attached to the cabinet with a full length stainless steel piano hinge or four, two-bolts per leaf, hinges. The door shall be provided with the same latch and lock mechanism as required for standard traffic signal cabinet. In addition, a padlock clasp will be provided.

When using battery ground boxes, an external cabinet is required for the non-battery components.

- 2. Stand-alone BBU/Battery Cabinet.** When required for installation by the plans a stand-alone cabinet in accordance with the following shall be provided.

The stand-alone cabinet shall conform to all the specifications of the External BBU/Battery Cabinet, except that it will not mount to the controller cabinet. The stand-alone cabinet shall be designed to attach to a concrete pad.

K. Concrete Pad. Provide a class B concrete pad as a foundation for stand-alone cabinets of the size shown in the plans. For external cabinets, extend the controller foundation to provide a class B concrete pad under the external cabinet of the size shown in the plans.

L. Documentation. Operation and maintenance manuals shall be provided. The operation manual shall include a block diagram schematic of all system hardware components. The manual shall include instructions for programming and viewing software features. The manual shall include all uploading/downloading (communications protocol) requirements via RS232 or Ethernet port.

Board level schematics shall be provided when requested.

Battery documentation and replacement information shall be provided.

M. Testing. The Department reserves the right to do testing on BBU systems to ensure Quality Assurance on unit before installation and random sampling of units being provided to the State. BBU systems that fail will be taken off the Qualified Products List (QPL).

Department QPL testing procedures will check compliance with all the criteria of this specification including the following:

- Event logging for fault/alarm conditions
- Demonstrated use of one or more of the operating methods described in section 3.A
- Testing of ability to power a 700W load for 4 hours, transfer to flash mode and power a 300W load for 2 additional hours, at an ambient temperature of +25°C.
- Testing of all components in environmental chamber (temperature ranges from -30°C to +74°C) following NEMA TS2 2003 standards, section 2.

N. Warranty, Maintenance and Support. The Contractor shall provide a manufacturer's 5 year full replacement warranty on all components of the BBU system except batteries. The warranty period starts on the date of final acceptance.

Batteries shall be warranted for full replacement for 5 years. Batteries shall be defined as bad if they are not able to deliver 80% of battery rating.

4. Measurement. This Item will be measured by each BBU system installed.

5. Payment. The work performed and materials furnished in accordance with this Item and measured as provided under "Measurement" will be paid for at the unit price bid for "BBU System" of the type (type of BBU cabinet) specified. This price is full compensation for furnishing, installing, and testing the completed installation, BBU system and associated equipment, mounting hardware, class B concrete pad, software, conduit, conductors; and equipment, labor, tools; and incidentals.