

Generator Permit Requirements

This is not a comprehensive list of requirements, only a general guide for plan review & inspections. Some of these items may not apply to your project. Please coordinate with your SECI for any question or clarifications regarding this list.

This document outlines the permit requirements for permanently mounted emergency and stand-by generators on commercial projects and temporary generators.

Emergency and Stand-By Generators

Prepare a Site Plan, Floor Plan, and Specifications as directed below.

- Site Plan – Show location/use of generator and tank. Show neighboring structures including use and square footage.
- Floor Plan – Show exiting, occupancy, fire-rated walls, ventilation, and required clearances, if within the building or structure.
- Specifications – List generator, tank type and size, fuel type, listing number and agency, and any special requirements.

Please note: Obtaining clearances from Fire/Hazmat and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQDM) are necessary to obtain a SECI Permit.

Building Review

In addition to the site plan, floor plan, and specifications, provide:

- Foundation plan and details.
- Anchorage details with calculations
- Enclosure, and any alterations
- Occupancy use that generator is serving.
- If set inside the building, show fire-resistive rated separation from all other areas of the building.

Electrical Review

Provide: Site/floor/specification plans as directed. Also show:

- Single line drawing
- Panel schedule
- Automatic transfer switch (ATS)
- Amount of Load being picked-up
- Grounding

IMPORTANT: The California Electrical Code (CEC) establishes a graduated scale of requirements for Emergency, Legally Required Standby (LRS), Optional, and Critical Operations Power Systems (COPS). Emergency and COPS are at the top of the scale, usually followed by LRS and Optional systems. Make notations if the generator is for Emergency, LRS, Optional, or COPS. Every one of those systems may be supplied by a single generator, but the generator must be equipped to handle all those loads. Additionally, every system must have its own ATS. Stationary generators must be tested and listed to UL 2200; transfer switch equipment must be tested and listed to UL 1008.

Mechanical Review

Provide: Site/floor/specification plans as directed on page 1. Also show:

- Ventilation (including backup power)
- Point of exhaust discharge
- Make-up air

Temporary Generators

The following applies to construction generators and generators used temporarily for non-construction.

If onsite **up to 180 days** - A temporary permit is required. Provide a site plan showing the proposed location. Additional information may be required.

Plan(s) to be reviewed by Fire/Hazmat. Clearance from the BAAQMD is also required.

If onsite **more than 180 days** - The system is considered a new permanent installation; follow the previous instructions.

NOISE STANDARDS

The sound pressure level generated by any use or combination of uses on a property must not exceed the following decibel levels:

- » Property line abuts a residential use: 55 Decibels.
- » Property line abuts a non-residential use: 60 Decibels.

Proof of noise level compliance (analysis by an acoustical engineer/professional) may be required by SECI inspection staff as needed.