

Electrical Generators

Common issues encountered during permitting, installation or inspection:

- Permits are required for permanently installed generators, transfer switches or power inlet boxes and their lockouts. See 2015 IRC R105.1 or 2018 IBC 105.1 (AMD).
- Permit applications should include type, make and model of the generator and/or transfer switch proposed for installation along with cut sheets or specification sheets.
- Permit applications for automatic standby generators must include load calculations that show compliance with the capacity and rating requirements of 2017 NEC 702.4
- Grounding and bonding must be updated or relocated to the new first point of disconnect. Check and repair or replace all water pipe grounds if corroded or damaged, install water meter jumpers, verify or install two ground rods. See 2017 NEC Article 250 or 2015 IRC Chapter 36.
- Verify that all equipment locations will meet the minimum workspace requirements of 2017 NEC 110.26
- Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. Observe all clearances from combustibles, vents, openings into the building, and sources of ignition.
- Propane regulator vents must discharge more than five feet from sources of ignition. The generator itself is a source of ignition.
- The electric meter location, the service-entrance equipment, and any equipment up to the service entrance equipment must have signs to warn of the type and location of standby power sources on the property. 2017 NEC 702.7 (AMD)
- All pipes, conduits, or tubing must be properly supported or meet minimum burial depths. Expansion sleeves are required on conduits emerging from grade.
- Permanent generators must have a letter of proper operation before the final inspection is scheduled. Details shall include verified operating voltage under load and installation of smoke alarms and CO detectors per the generator manufacturer's instructions.

These items are not the complete building code. Nothing herein should be construed as an interpretation of the applicability of codes and procedures to your specific project. If there are any questions about the application of the information herein, please contact your building inspection office.