



POLICY INTENT NOTICE

PIN: 79

SUBJECT

Tier 4 Generators

Effective: 2/6/2025



PURPOSE

This Policy Intent Notice (PIN) provides guidance on the use of emission system-controlled engine shutdown provisions mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Tier 4 Level 1 emergency generators. Due to patient safety concerns and to align with the future 2022 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 110 standard, this PIN prohibits the use of emission system-controlled engine shutdown controls on Tier 4, Level 1 emergency generators.

BACKGROUND

Some Air Pollution Quality Districts in California require Emergency Generators to be Tier 4 rated. A Tier 4 generator is a type of diesel engine generator that meets strict emission standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There are two ways vendors can meet this requirement:

- 1) By providing a Tier 4 certified generator – which requires among other things that the generator be equipped with automatic shutdown and lockout features that are initiated in the event the unit is unable or will become unable to control Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions to meet EPA emissions requirements.
- 2) By providing a Tier 4 compliant generator* – which is generally accomplished by adding aftermarket products to lower tier generators (typically Tier 2 or Tier 3) to meet the stricter Tier 4 emission requirements.

*Note: These Tier 4 compliant generators with aftermarket modifications are not required to have automatic shutdown provisions.

The automatic shutdown feature required for Tier 4 certified diesel generators creates obvious concerns for the availability of hospital emergency generators during normal power interruptions. Available emergency power for essential electrical loads is one of the fundamental principles and best practices for hospital electrical systems’ design.

POLICY

The following is language that appears in the 2022 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 110 to address this concern regarding the reliability of emergency diesel generators.

5.6.5 Control Functions.

5.6.5.5.1

Where used for permanent Level 1 applications, EPA-mandated inducement engine shutdowns due to emissions system controls that are required on Tier 4 certified engines with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) shall be prohibited.

The Department of Health Care Access and Information will be enforcing this 2022 NFPA 110 requirement for emergency generators installed at all Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities constructed in California from this point forward.

Original signed	2/6/2025
Chris Tokas, Deputy Director	Date