

Regulatory Advisory

A service to members, advisories are produced whenever there is a significant development that affects the job you do in your community.

JCAHO Announces Triennial Extended Run Test For Emergency Generators

A Message to ASHE Members:

On May 31, 2006, the Joint Commission (JCAHO) announced the revision of Standard EC.7.40 in the June 2006 edition of *Joint Commission Perspectives*. The revision, which is **effective July 1, 2007**, requires hospital and other¹ accreditation to test their emergency generators every 36 months for four continuous hours. This extended run tests, and additional requirements if the test fails, are stated in three new elements of performance.

Element of Performance #5 – Category A

Facilities that have a generator providing emergency power for the services listed in elements of performance 5 through 18 of standard EC.7.20: The organization tests each emergency generator at least once every 36 months for a minimum of four continuous hours. This test shall be conducted under a load (dynamic or static) that is at least 30% of the nameplate rating of the generator.

Element of Performance #6 – Category B

If a test(s) required by EC.7.40 fails, the organization implements interim measures to compensate for the risk to [patients/residents/ clients], visitors, and staff until necessary repairs or corrections are completed.

Element of Performance #7 – Category A

If a test(s) required by EC.7.40 fails, the organization performs a retest after making the necessary repairs or corrections.

In addition EP 1 has been revised to reference the 2005 edition of NFPA 110 - *Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems*, while deleting reference to NFPA 99.

Two descriptive notes are included in the revision. The first note allows organizations that have successfully operated their generator(s), to the stated criteria, since July 1, 2004 can count that occurrence as the initial compliance with retesting to occur before the three year anniversary of the occurrence. The second note allows organizations to assess the prime movers' exhaust gas temperature to meet manufacturer recommendations if they cannot achieve the minimum load of 30%.

¹ The new elements of performance are for the following accreditation manuals: Hospital, Critical Access Hospital, Long Term Care, Ambulatory Care, Behavioral Health Care, Laboratory, Office-Based Surgery, and Home Care

Many ASHE members and industry experts took advantage of the opportunity to provide comments to JCAHO during the field review period earlier this year. Those comments helped to shape the final revisions – most notably resetting the proposed testing cycle from annual to triennial. The issue of providing reliable emergency power is a complex issue which extends beyond JCAHO Standard EC.7.40. ASHE members are encouraged to obtain the 2005 edition of NFPA 110 for a thorough discussion of planning, design, installation, maintenance and testing of Emergency Power Systems. In addition, ASHE members are encouraged to download a copy of the ASHE Management Monograph: ***Managing Hospital Emergency Power Testing Programs*** by David Stymiest, PE, SASHE, CEM, CHF, Senior Consultant – Facilities Engineering, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. available at <http://www.ashe.org/ashe/products/pubs/pdfs/mg2003stymiest.pdf>

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