



Emergency Engine Permit Exemption and Operational Requirements

Emergency Internal Combustion Engine Requirements - see Rule 200 Section 303.3 c. (5)

An internal combustion engine that is operated only on an emergency basis (other than routine testing) and meets one of the following does not require an air permit:

1. The engines have a manufacturer's maximum continuous rating of 50 horsepower or less or a maximum accumulative rating of 250 horsepower or less for engines used in the same process at one source.
2. The engines together emit less than 4,000 pounds of nitrogen oxides or carbon monoxide per year when each engine is operated at 500 hours per year as evidenced by an installed hour meter or written usage records maintained by the operator.

An internal combustion engine is considered an emergency engine if it is operated only for the following purposes – see Rule 324 Section 104

- To provide backup power
- Used to pump water during an emergency
- Used to light airport runways
- Used for sewage overflow mitigation and/or prevention
- Used for reliability-related purposes provided operational hours do not exceed 100 hours per calendar year (must be verifiable using a meter)
- Used to replace a prime engine during failure (limited to the time allowed for repair)
- Used to operate standby low pressure activated emergency water pumps for fire control

The following uses do not qualify an emergency engine for a permit exemption – see Rule 324 Section 205:

- Used to provide back-up power due to a voluntary reduction in power supply
- Used to supply power for distribution or sale to the grid
- Used to supply power to avoid peak demand charges

The following requirements of Rule 324 – Stationary Internal Combustion (IC) Engines do apply to an internal combustion engine generator operated only on an emergency basis:

301 LIMITATIONS FOR NEW AND EXISTING STATIONARY IC ENGINES: An owner or operator of any engine that meets the criteria listed in Section 102 shall comply with either of the following:

301.1 Use any fuel that contains no more than 0.05% sulfur by weight, alone or in combination with other fuels.

301.2 Use any waste derived fuel gas that contains no more than 0.08% sulfur by weight, alone or in combination with other fuels.

303 LIMITATIONS – OPACITY: No owner or operator shall discharge into the ambient air from any single source of emissions any air contaminant, other than uncombined water, in excess of 20% opacity.

502.1 An owner or operator of any IC engine, including emergency engines, prime engines and low usage engines, shall keep a record that includes an initial one time entry that lists the particular engine combustion type (compression or spark-ignition or rich or lean burn); manufacturer; model designation, rated brake horsepower, serial number and where the engine is located on the site.

502.4 An owner or operator of an emergency engine and a non-emergency low-usage engine that meets the exemptions listed in Sections 104 and 105 shall keep an engine record that includes:

1. Monthly rolling twelve month total of hours of operation, including hours of operation for testing, reliability and maintenance;
2. Fuel type and sulfur content of fuel; and
3. Explanation for the use of the engine if it is used as an emergency engine.

The information stated above is a quick reference to various provisions of the Air Quality Rules relating to the use of emergency generators.

This document is intended to be used as a guide and should not be used in place of the actual rule.