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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Source Document: 19NYCRR 1221 - *Building Code of New York State (BCNYS)*
19NYCRR 1220 - *Residential Code of New York State (RCNYS)*

Topic: Generator signs

This document is to clarify the requirements for signs to indicate automatic generator transfer required in the *National Electrical Code* (NEC), NFPA 70-2005, referenced standard in the *Building Code of New York State* (BCNYS) Chapter 27 and whether those requirements are also applicable to buildings constructed in compliance with the *Residential Code of New York State* (RCNYS). The answer is YES. NEC section 700-8(a), Emergency Sources, states:

A sign shall be placed at the service entrance equipment indicating type and location of on-site emergency power sources.

This section part of Article 700 - Emergency Systems. Section 700-1, scope, states in part:

... emergency systems are those systems legally required and classed as emergency by municipal, state, federal, or other codes, or by any governmental agency having jurisdiction.

Additionally, Article 701 - Legally Required Standby Systems, section 701-9(a), states:

A sign shall be placed at the service-entrance equipment that indicates the type and location of on-site legally required standby power sources.

And, Article 702 - Optional Standby Systems, section 702-8(a), states:

A sign shall be placed at the service-entrance equipment that indicates the type and location of on-site optional standby power sources.

Each of these sections has an exception for individual unit equipment, which is battery back-up lighting fixtures and similar single unit power supplies.

With respect to the RCNYS, section E3301.2, scope, states in part:

The omission from these chapters of any material or method of construction provided for in the referenced standard NFPA 70 shall not be construed as prohibiting the use of such material or method of construction. Electrical systems, equipment or components not specifically covered in these chapters shall comply with the applicable provisions of the NFPA 70. (2002)

This requirement for generator signage at the service-entrance equipment is applicable to all building which have an automatic generator transfer switch (optional standby power), legally required standby power and emergency systems. This requirement is important to emergency responders when they are trying to kill the power to a building.

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