



Nevada State Health Division Technical Bulletin



Topic: Hospital Generator Testing
Bulletin Number: BHCQC March 2009

**Section/Program: Bureau of
Health Care Quality and
Compliance**

TO: All Hospitals

SUBJECT: Emergency Power Supply System Maintenance and Testing

The Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (BHCQC) has recently received reports of the emergency power supply systems failing to activate in a timely manner in hospitals. In order to ensure the safety and well-being of patients in the hospital during a power failure, the BHCQC has issued this bulletin to remind hospitals of their responsibility to maintain and test their emergency power supply system as required.

The following regulations and adopted references identify the required maintenance and testing for Emergency Power Supply Systems.

- NAC 449.3154 (1) states: "Except as otherwise provided in this section, newly constructed hospitals and existing hospitals shall comply with the current edition of *NFPA 101: Life Safety Code*, published by the national Fire Protection Association, which is hereby adopted by reference."
- NFPA 101, Life Safety Code: The health care occupancy chapters reference section 9.1.3 Emergency Generators and Standby Power Systems indicates: "Emergency generators and standby power systems, where required for compliance with this Code, shall be installed, tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 110, Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems."
- NFPA 110, Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems: Chapter 8, Routine Maintenance and Operational Testing documents the required maintenance and testing of emergency power supply systems. Please see attachment.
- NFPA 111, Standard on Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power systems: Chapter 6, Routine Maintenance and Operational Testing documents the recommended maintenance and testing of stored emergency power supply systems.
- Federal Regulations 42 CFR 482.41 Condition of Participation: Physical Environment states: "The hospital must be constructed, arranged, and maintained to ensure the safety of the patient, and to provide facilities for diagnosis and treatment and for special hospital services appropriate to the needs of the community."
 - 42 CFR 482.41 (a) (1) states: "There must be emergency power and lighting in at least the operating, recovery, intensive care and emergency rooms, and stairwells. In all other areas not serviced by the emergency supply source, battery lamps and flashlights must be available."

Topic: Hospital Generator Testing

Page 2

- 42 CFR 482.41 (c) (2) states: "Facilities, supplies, and equipment must be maintained to ensure an acceptable level of safety and quality." This would include the regular periodic maintenance and testing program for generators. A qualified individual must monitor, test, calibrate and maintain the equipment periodically in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and Federal and State laws and regulations.

The BHCQC can, if necessary, cite identified deficiencies under state regulations at NAC 449.3154 and under federal regulations at 42 CFR 482.41.

In conclusion, hospitals must assure that their emergency power supply systems will activate in a timely manner. Please take note of this bulletin and take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of your patients.

Approved by:



Marla McDade Williams, MPA, HCQC Bureau Chief