

Alabama Department of Public Health, Technical Services Unit  
Testing of Emergency Generators and Emergency Lighting  
07/07/2020

Section 7.9 of the 2012 Edition of the NFPA Life Safety Code contains the requirements for testing of emergency generators and emergency lighting.

Document all testing to confirm code compliance.

**GENERATORS:**

Testing requirements for emergency generators, contained in Section 8.4.1 of NFPA 110 Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems, consist of weekly inspections, and monthly operation under load for at least 30 minutes. These are the code requirements that Technical Services will enforce. NFPA 110, Chapter 8, contains maintenance schedules which outline the items that should be checked at each inspection or test. There is no code requirement for an emergency generator to be tested annually for 90 minutes, nor for a weekly run. There are many benefits gained from frequent exercising of generator equipment, and facility managers may elect to run generators as often as weekly. However, Technical Services will not require a weekly run.

Diesel generators have additional code requirements.

**LIGHTING:**

A monthly functional test for at least 30 seconds is required.

If system is battery powered, must be tested annually for at least 90 minutes.