



Department of Public Works and Engineering
Planning & Development Services Division
RESIDENTIAL STANDBY GENERATOR
PERMIT & INSPECTION GUIDE

City Of Houston

PURPOSE

This handout was created to aid customers with understanding the permit and inspection process to install a residential standby generator. Included are the required permits, items that must be available to city field inspectors at the construction site, and the items that the city inspectors will be verifying in the field during the inspection process.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Single trade Electrical and Plumbing permits will be required for the installation. Each licensed contractor will be required to pull the permits and will be responsible for their permits and inspections.

INSPECTION PACKAGE CONTENTS

The manufacturer's installation manual and the permits must remain on the jobsite at all times during the inspection process. The inspection requirements for residential generators will be based on the manufacturer's installation manual, Houston Construction Codes and NFPA standards, whichever is more restrictive.

SPECIFIC ITEMS REQUIRED

The following items **from the manual** will be verified by the inspectors:

- Required clearances for maintenance and service of any equipment located within the general area
- Flex fuel lines, regulators, and the BTU rating for sizing the gas service line to the meter
- Electrical specifications for the generator proposed
- Thickness and size of required foundation/ support

INSPECTION CHECK POINTS

Plumbing Inspection

- The location and orientation of equipment in relation to the existing electrical panel, gas meter, and any other equipment such as condensing units, pool equipment, or other equipment that requires access for maintenance. *Sec. 4.1.4 of NFPA 37, and Sec. 106 – 2003 IBC.*
- Inspection of all plumbing pipe installed from gas meter to generator, verifying correct size for:
 1. Required flex connector, listed for the generator size being installed
 2. The regulator if required, also sized for the specific generator installed
 3. Gas meter and piping

Electrical Inspection

- Pad Inspection – **prior to pouring concrete** when constructing "**poured-in-place**" pad (for location only)
- Electrical wire installation and conduit
- Electrical contractor's load analysis identifying the electrical loads selected, to verify generator and transfer switch is appropriately sized for the designated loads
- Location and orientation of equipment in relation to the existing electrical panel
- Site Inspection minimum dimension from the generator or generator housing to:
 1. Lot lines or property lines – 2 feet
 2. Combustible exterior building walls (*including wood framed - brick veneer*) = 5 Feet
 3. Openings located in an exterior wall of a building = 5 Feet *Sec. 4.1.4 of NFPA 37*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Electrical Inspections – 713-535-7600
Plumbing Inspections – 713-535-7700
