



BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICE

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February 10, 2006

EMERGENCY POWER TESTING

The following are the requirements for the testing of the emergency power system (generator and/or battery back-up systems) for new and/or Comprehensive Projects for Building Code Compliance Office acceptance.

1. The emergency power test shall be performed during darkness hours, not during daylight hours. This time shall be scheduled for early am. All exit paths and egress paths shall be illuminated with not less than 1 foot candle at floor level for the entire egress path to a public way (roadway, parking lot or field).
2. If the emergency system is battery back-up, this system shall operate for 90 minutes under full load conditions
3. If the emergency power system is a generator, the generator shall have a fuel capacity for two hours operation under full emergency load.
4. The emergency power test shall be activated by the main breaker or shunt trip switch (if equipped).

The emergency power test can take as long as 1-1/2 to 4 hours. An elementary school usually takes 90 minutes, a middle school usually takes 2 hours and a high school usually takes 3 to 4 hours to complete. So plan accordingly.

If a facility has dual emergency power systems (battery and generator) each system shall be tested separately and each system shall comply with code.

Please insure that the proper contractors have a sufficient number of qualified personnel with proper radio communications and testing equipment scheduled for these tests and everything has been pre-tested prior to scheduling with the BCCO. Pre-testing by the contractors can prevent the acceptance test from failing within minutes of starting. If discrepancies are being found, the acceptance test for the emergency power system shall be stopped and failed. The BCCO will not wait around for a contractor to try to fix a discrepancy and the BCCO re-inspect. One discrepancy shall cause failure of the entire acceptance test. Another acceptance test will have to be scheduled for a later date (BCCO shall have to approve the date of another acceptance test date).