Emergency and standby power systems

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As of March 20, 2023, Pennsylvania-based Emergency System Service Company ...

Founded in 1944, Curtis Power Solutions is a highly-specialized provider of world ...

The term "Emergency Generator" is often used incorrectly to describe the ...

Effective January 1, 2022, Rolls-Royce Power Systems has awarded Curtis ...

With these parameters, the need for emergency or standby power is determined and described in either a building code, fire code, and/or referenced standard. Specific requirements for emergency and standby power systems design will vary based on building occupancy type, facility use, critical function, and equipment served.

Emergency systems are defined by NFPA 70, Article 700 as: systems legally required and classed as emergency by municipal, state, federal, or other codes, or by any governmental agency having jurisdiction. These systems are intended to automatically supply illumination, power, or both, to designated areas and equipment in the event of failure of the primary power supply or in the event of accident to elements of a system intended to supply, distribute, and control power and illumination essential for life safety. When primary power is lost, emergency power systems shall be able to supply secondary power within 10 seconds.

Legally required standby systems are defined by NFPA 70, Article 701 as: systems required and so classed as legally required standby by municipal, state, federal, or other codes or by any governmental agency having jurisdiction. These systems are intended to automatically supply power to selected loads (other than those classed as emergency systems) in the event of failure of the primary power source. Legally required standby systems provide secondary power to aid in firefighting, rescue operations, control of health hazards, and similar operations. When primary power is lost, legally required standby power systems shall be able to supply secondary power within 60 seconds, instead of the 10 seconds or less required of emergency power systems.

Optional standby systems are defined by NFPA 70, Article 702 as: systems intended to protect public or private facilities or property where life safety does not depend on the performance of the system. Optional standby power systems are intended to supply secondary power to selected loads either automatically or manually.

NFPA 110 only defines systems with a direct impact on life safety. As such, the systems described in NFPA 70, Article 702 (Optional Standby Systems) do not fall under the purview of NFPA 110. NFPA 110 does not state which applications or equipment specifically qualify as Level 1 or Level 2. Provision of other NFPA Standards and Building Codes state the required Type, Class and Level of EPSS system and whether the

systems fall under NFPA 70 Article 700 (Emergency Systems) or NFPA 70Article 701 (Legally Required Standby).

Examples of common secondary power systems required by the Building Code and their associated loads include the following:

Emergency / Type 10, Level 1, Systems include (but may not be limited to):

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