



Emergency Generators

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regulates emergency engines and turbines.

[Learn more about EH&S](#) and [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

MassDEP March 2018 regulation update summary:

- Allow for 100 hours per year of non-emergency maintenance and testing.

Most emergency engines* can operate for 100 hours per calendar year for maintenance checks and readiness testing of that engine, provided the tests are recommended by either:

- Federal, state, or local governments
- The manufacturer
- The vendor
- The regional transmission organization
- The insurance company associated with the engine
- 50 hours of this non-emergency use may be for tasks like shutdowns to maintain building systems or support construction projects.

Demand response is prohibited for emergency engines.

* Exceptions: Engines with permit limits that must be amended by MassDEP to operate using amended regulations are Northwest Labs, BRI, 60 Oxford Street, Blackstone Station, LISE, One Western Avenue, NRB.



HARVARD
Campus Services
 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Common use examples:

| Type | Duration | Use |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Transfer switch preventative maintenance | One hour | Manufacturer required task |
| State elevator inspection | One hour to two hours | Code required task |
| Generator repairs requiring engine operation and load bank testing | 30 minutes to one hour | Manufacturer required task |
| Electrical shutdown during construction where project wants to use existing generator instead of a temporary portable unit | | Non-emergency use |

- Allow most emergency engines* and turbines to operate for an unlimited time during emergencies.

Emergency means:

- Electric power outages from electrical supply failures, in whole or in part, on-site disasters, local equipment failures, floods, fires, or natural disasters.
- When the imminent threat of a power outage is likely due to electrical supply failure.
- Mandate careful recordkeeping.

Maintain an operations log that includes:

- Operation date, time, and duration
- Reason for each start, fuel type, and supplier