



# Building Standards and Codes

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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

**Code Effective Date:** October 31, 2017<sup>1</sup>  
**Source Document:** 19NYCRR 1220 – Residential Construction  
19NYCRR 1221 – Building Construction<sup>2</sup>  
**Topic:** Generator Signs

This document provides clarification of the Uniform Code requirements for signage to indicate the use of power generators.

With respect to buildings regulated by the 2015 International Residential Code, the power generator signage requirement is not specifically mentioned. However, Section E3401.2 states in part that:

*...Electrical systems, equipment or components not specifically covered in these chapters shall comply with the applicable provisions of NFPA 70.<sup>3</sup>*

With respect to buildings regulated by the 2015 International Building Code, Section 2702.1.2 states that:

*Emergency power systems and standby power systems required by this code or the International Fire Code shall be installed in accordance with the International Fire Code, NFPA 70, NFPA 110 and NFPA 111.*

NFPA 70, National Electrical Code (NEC) is the designated electrical code for use with the I-Codes. It requires that “a sign shall be placed at the service-entrance equipment indicating type and location of” on-site emergency power sources, on-site legally required standby power sources, and optional standby power sources. See Sections 700.7(A), 701.7(A), and 702.7(A). Each of these sections includes an exception for individual “Unit Equipment” which consists of battery back-up lighting fixtures and similar unit power supplies. Additionally, a warning sign may be required for grounding in compliance with Sections 700.7(B), 701.7(B), and 702.7(B).

*Service Equipment* is defined in Chapter 1 of the NEC as:

*the necessary equipment, usually consisting of a circuit breaker(s) or switch(es) and fuse(s) and their accessories, connected to the load end of service conductors to a building or other structure, or an otherwise designated area, and intended to constitute the main control and cutoff of the supply.*

*Emergency Systems* are defined in Section 700.2 of the NEC as:

*those systems legally required and classed as emergency by municipal, state, federal, or other codes, or by any governmental agency having jurisdiction.*

Signage is important and potentially life-saving to emergency responders when attempting to cut power to a building. The information contained in this bulletin is not intended as a comprehensive discussion of all the emergency signage requirements of the Uniform Code.

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<sup>1</sup> The “Code Effective Date” for this Technical Bulletin is October 31, 2017, which is the effective date of the current version of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code).

<sup>2</sup> The 2015 International Residential Code (2015 IRC) is a publication incorporated by reference in 19 NYCRR Part 1220 and the 2015 International Building Code (2015 IBC) is a publication incorporated by reference in 19 NYCRR Part 1221.

The 2017 Uniform Code Supplement is a publication incorporated by reference in 19 NYCRR Parts 1219 through 1228. The 2015 IRC and IBC as amended by the 2017 Uniform Code Supplement are all part of the Uniform Code.

<sup>3</sup> NFPA 70, The National Electrical Code, 2014 edition, is a document incorporated by reference per Chapter 10 of the 2017 Uniform Code Supplement.