



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8210



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Section 702.2

Question:

Is it the intent of the FBC to require an automatic transfer switch for generator hookup at nursing homes (because it is legally mandated by Rule, so 701.2) ; or is Optional Standby System per 702.2 and as stated in Rule 59A acceptable for generator hookup at nursing homes?

Answer

The State Administrative Rule quoted in the above Comments section 59 A-4.1265, section (1)(a)(2) states "... or onsite optional standby system as defined by NFPA 70 National Electrical Code ..." to supply the power needed to maintain the temperature of the nursing facility at 81 degrees Fahrenheit. This allows an optional standby system, NEC article 702 as being acceptable.

Commentary:

Emergency Systems, NEC article 700, refer to whatever is mandated by the governing codes. This section generally covers items such as EXIT signs, emergency lights, fire alarm, fire pump, etc. NEC 701 - Legally Required Standby Systems are those mandated by the Authority Having Jurisdiction and the governing codes. This may include lighting, emergency systems, ventilation to remove smoke, sewage removal etc. This allows for continued operation, or at least partial operation of critical systems until normal power is restored. Optional Standby Systems NEC 702 are to supply systems where life-safety is not an immediate issue. Requiring the air-conditioning in a nursing home rise to maintain 81 degrees is not the same as maintaining operation of a critical facility. While stand-by power is being mandated by the State, they are allowing an optional standby system to power this new requirement.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.