



CALIFORNIA SKILLED NURSING FACILITY LAW EXPANDS ALTERNATE POWER SOURCE REQUIREMENTS

AB 2511, an amendment to the Health and Safety Code Section 1418, requires skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in California to have an alternative source of power to protect resident health and safety for no fewer than 96 hours* during power outages that may result from public safety power shutoffs, emergencies, natural disasters, or other causes. The alternative source of power should be a source of electricity that is not received through an electric utility but is generated or stored onsite, which may include emergency generators using fuel, large capacity batteries, or renewable electrical generation facilities.

The alternative source of power is required to maintain a safe temperature for residents, availability of life-saving equipment, and availability of oxygen-generating devices. SNFs that use a generator as their alternative source of power must maintain sufficient fuel onsite to maintain generator operation for no less than 96 hours or arrange for fuel delivery for an emergency event. Facilities that use batteries or a combination of batteries in tandem with a renewable electrical generation facility as their alternative source of power shall have sufficient storage or generation capacity to maintain operation for no fewer than 96 hours*.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will enforce the certification requirements for SNFs that are enforceable by January 1, 2024. SNFs must comply with the requirements of this section by this date. The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) will provide a technical basis from which a SNF can create a plan for identifying existing conditions that are already in compliance with the statute or to identify noncompliance and develop a construction project to achieve a compliant condition as required for acceptance by CDPH.



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Source: HCAI Advisory Guide A6 for Skilled Nursing Facilities
https://hcai.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/A6_Alternate-Source-of-Power_Final-032123.pdf

*Please refer to NFPA110.5.5.3 for requirements for fuel tank capacity for level one systems

POWER SOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND CODE SECTIONS

On site alternative power sources may be required to conform to one or more of the following requirements:

- Title 24, California Electrical Code, Part 3, ARTICLE 517.29 through 517.30 for SNF Subacute units
- Title 24, California Electrical Code, Part 3, ARTICLE 517.40 and 517.41 Essential Electrical Systems for Nursing Homes and Limited Care Facilities
- Title 24, California Electrical Code, Part 3, ARTICLE 701 for legally required standby systems
- Title 24, California Electrical Code, Part 3, ARTICLE 705, Interconnected Electric Power Production Sources

Application Code Sections and Approvals: (Applicable requirements)

- Special seismic certification of equipment, Title 24, California Building Code, Part 2, Volume 2, Section 1705.13.3
- 96 hours of on-site fuel storage (or an approved Emergency Preparedness plan)

New Requirements for Restoring Power. California has recently enacted requirements relating to restoration of power within a specified time, including:

- Life-Saving Equipment and Oxygen Generating equipment must be restored to backup power within 10 seconds of failure of normal power source
- Cooling and heating equipment must be restored to power within sufficient time to maintain temperature between 71-81 degrees Fahrenheit
- 96 hours of On-Site Fuel Storage

Where generators are used as an alternative power source, there must be:

- Sufficient fuel onsite to sustain generator operation for no less than 96 hours* OR contract arrangements for fuel delivery during an emergency event with no delays
- On-site fuel storage of not less than 6 hours capacity in a minimum of one tank
- Alternate arrangements for delivery of fuel to meet this requirement must be approved by CDPH if 96 hours of on-site fuel is not provided

Take advantage of your free 30 minute consultation by reaching out to your TELS Representative or email CAGenerators@DirectSupply.com



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