

Application and Code Considerations for Specifying **Generator Set Fuel Sources**

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Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this course shall not be considered the official position of any regulatory organization and shall not be considered to be, nor be relied upon as, a Formal Interpretation.

Participants are encouraged to refer to the entire text of all referenced documents. In addition, when it doubt, reach out to the Authority Having Jurisdiction.



Course Objectives

Application and Code Considerations for Specifying Generator Set Fuel Sources

The installation of gaseous generator sets in a wide variety of applications continues to rise in North America while facility performance requirements, codes and standards are often most closely linked to their traditional diesel counterpart. As natural gas and propane fueled generator sets reach the market with "diesel-like" performance, it's critical to understand how best to apply these products in order to maximize the value they provide. This course will provide an overview of gaseous generator sets apply gaseous generator sets to meet common performance and code requirements.

After completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Recognize performance requirements applicable to both diesel and gaseous generator sets.
- Describe key features and capabilities of gaseous generator sets.
- List key application considerations unique to gaseous generator set installations.

When compared to a diesel generator set, what are some of the differentiators unique to a natural gas (or propane) fueled generator set?

Diesel and Gaseous Fuels

Diesel Fuel

Power dense, high energy content ULSD Diesel #2 ASTM D975

Gaseous Fuel

Variable energy content "Pipeline natural gas"







Gaseous Fuels

Category	Also Known As	BTU
	Pipeline Gas, Standard Gas	High
Conventional	Associated Petroleum Gas (APG)	High
Natural Gas	Flare Gas, Field Gas	High
	Associated-Dissolved Gas (ADG)	High
	Wellhead Gas	High
Unconventional	Coal Bed Methane (CBM)	High
Natural Gas	Coal Mine Methane (CMM)	~Low
	Anaerobic Digester Gas (ADG)	Low
Biogas	Wastewater Treatment Plant Gas	Low
Syngas	Syngas Synthesis Gas, Pyrolysis Gas	
Industrial Gas	Industrial Gas Town Gas	

Spec Note Conduct a fuel sample analysis, include the results in the specification and require manufacturers to provide documentation demonstrating capability with the on-site fuel.

Gaseous Fuels - Methane Number

Methane Index Number (MN)

- Defines likelihood of a fuel to auto-ignite
- Scale of 0-100
 - Higher MN may be less likely to autoignite (knock) and may be suitable for high power density applications.
 - Lower MN may be more likely to auto-ignite (knock) and may require power derate and/or timing changes.
- High quality pipeline natural gas is typically 80-90 MN.

Methane number capability

Load	(perce	nt of ra	ted)		
100% 90% 75% 50%					
72	66	57	42		



Spec Note Require generator set manufacturers to provide documentation indicating product performance at a specified Methane Number or range based on site fuel sample analysis.

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- High quality pipeline natural gas is typically 80-90 MN.

	Generator Set Da 2000 kW Standby						cummins
	Model: Frequency: Fuel Type: Emissions NOx: LT Water Inlet Temp HT Water Outlet Ten		as MI 65 -hr ∔°F)	+			
			MSP-30				
	Measured sound performa Prototype test summary da		PTS-62				
	Remote radiator cooling or		A057J5				
	Fuel Consumption (See Note	100% of rated load	90% of rated load	75% of rated load	50% of rated load
					4876 (16.65)	4149 (14.17)	2958 (10.1)
Fuel					39.4%	38.6%	36.1%
			-		37.	37.1%	34.6%
Minimum gas supply pressure at DMV	, bar (psi) ⁷	0.24 (3	3.5)				
Min methane index		65					
	Gross engine power output, BMEP, bar (psi)	kWm (hp)	2113 (2)			-	
	BMEP, bar (psi) Bore, mm (in)		18.3 (20				
	Stroke, mm (in)		200 (7.8	- /			
	Rated speed, rpm		1514	-			
	Piston speed, m/s (ft/min)		10 (196	8)			
	Compression ratio		11.4:1				
	Lube oil capacity, L (qt) Overspeed limit, rpm		582 (61	5)			
	Regenerative power, kW		N/A				
	Full load lubricating oil consu	umption,	0.4 (0.3))			
	aldMa br (alka br)						
	Fuel						
	Minimum gas supply pressur	re at DMV, bar (psi)7	0.24 (3.	5)			
	Min methane index		65				
	Our energy working for you." 2009 Curmins Inc. D-5738 A059738	a (10)(19)				р	ower.cummins.com
	www.b.commis.mu. provab A0597335	- (on - 2)					

Spec Note Require generator set manufacturers to provide documentation indicating product performance at a specified Methane Number or range based on site fuel sample analysis.

Rich Burn and Lean Burn Engines

	Rich Burn	Lean Burn
Air Fuel Ratio	~14.6 : 1	~25 : 1
Excess Air (O ₂)	0.2 to 0.8%	>4%
Typical Application	Fast start, large block loads	High efficiency, continuous operation, ramping load
Emissions	Aftertreatment may be required to reduce NOx and CO	Can often meet emissions requirements without aftertreatment

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Spec Note Specify project requirements critical to the generator set such as transient performance, motor starting capability or emissions limits. Avoid specifying "Rich Burn" or "Lean Burn" as it may drive unnecessary product requirements.

Concept Check

When describing gaseous fuels, which of the following attributes are often used to describe fuel composition? (Choose one)

- a) Methane Number (MN)
- b) ASTM D975
- c) Air/Fuel Ratio
- d) Smell & odor

Concept Check

When describing gaseous fuels, which of the following attributes are often used to describe fuel composition? Choose all that apply.

a) Methane Number (MN)

- b) ASTM D975
- c) Air/Fuel Ratio
- d) Smell & odor

Myths and Misconceptions

MYTH: "Gaseous generator sets may not be suitable for emergency or life safety applications."

Fuel Source for Emergency Systems

NFPA 110-2019

5.1.1 The following energy sources shall be permitted to be used for the emergency power supply (EPS):

- (1) Liquid petroleum products...
- (2) Liquified petroleum gas...
- (3) Natural or synthetic gas

Exception: For Level 1 installations in locations where the probability of interruption of off-site fuel supplies is high, on-site storage of an alternate energy source sufficient to allow full output of the EPSS to be delivered for the class specified shall be required, with the provision for automatic transfer from the primary energy source to the alternate energy source.



Compliance to Codes and Standards Fuel Source for Emergency Systems

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Natural Gas Council

Natural gas is a secure, reliable and resilient choice for customers

- Operational reliability
 - 2017 survey of 51 interstate pipelines 99.97% of contractual commitments
 - Geographic dispersion of production reduces vulnerability to local weather
 - Transportation network interconnected, offering multiple pathways for rerouting
- Contractual continuity of service
 - Firm or interruptible contracts

Compliance to Codes and Standards Fuel Source for Emergency Systems – Canada

CSA 282 Emergency Electrical Power Supply for Buildings

7.3.1 Minimum Quantity

A quantity of fuel sufficient for operating the engine under maximum site design load for at least 2h shall be maintained on site at all times...

7.3.2 Health care facilities

...where a generator set is required for emergency power supply to essential electrical systems in conformance with CSA Z32, a fuel supply shall be maintained on site at all times...

7.3.3 Off-site fuel supply

Notwithstanding Clause 7.3.1, when it can be demonstrated to the authority having jurisdiction that the reliability of the off-site utility fuel supply and the associated piping meets the requirements of Clause 7.3.1 for a continuous fuel supply, on-site storage might not be required.

Compliance to Codes and Standards Fuel Source for Emergency Systems

Map of U.S. interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, About U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines

Fuel Source for Emergency Systems

NFPA 70 – NEC Article:	Diesel	Gaseous (utility & on-site fuel source)	Gaseous (utility source only)
708 "COPS"	\checkmark	✓	*
700 "Life Safety"	\checkmark	✓	√*
701 "Legally Req'd"	✓	✓	\checkmark
702 "Optional"	✓	✓	\checkmark

* Follow exemption process w/ AHJ per NFPA 110 Level 1 Systems

** **NEC Article 708:** Prime movers shall not be solely dependent on a public utility gas system for their fuel supply... Where internal combustion engines are used as the prime mover, an on-site fuel supply shall be provided...

Spec Note Specify natural-gas fueled generator sets for emergency power systems where permitted by the local Authority Having Jurisdiction. (Perform a Hazard Analysis or Risk Assessment with the utility and AHJ early in the design phase.)

Generator Set Ratings

ISO 8528: Defines application, ratings and performance of generator sets.

- Emergency Standby Power (ESP)
- Prime Rated Power (PRP)
- Limited Time Prime Power (LTP)
- Continuous Operating Power (COP)
- Data Center Power (DCP)

Any manufacturer can go above and beyond the ISO ratings definitions.



International Organization for Standardization.2018-02.ISO 8528-1.www.iso.org

Generator Set Ratings

Emergency Standby Power (ESP)

- "Maximum power available during a variable electrical power sequence...for up to 200 h of operation per year"
- "The permissible average power output over 24 h of operation shall not exceed 70% of the ESP unless otherwise agreed by the RIC engine manufacturer"



Spec Note Specify ISO 8528 generator set power rating based on application requirements.

Compliance to Codes and Standards NFPA 110 Type Requirements

4.3 Type. The type defines the maximum time, in seconds, that the EPSS will permit the load terminals of the transfer switch to be without acceptable electrical power.

Designation	Power Restoration
Type U	Basically uninterruptible (UPS systems)
Type 10	10 sec
Type 60	60 sec
Type 120	120 sec
Type M	Manual stationary or nonautomatic — no
	time limit

Compliance to Codes and Standards NFPA 110 Type Requirements

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Туре 10 Туре 60 Туре 120	120 sec			
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time limit				

Spec Note Specify NFPA 110 Type requirement for Emergency Power Supply System based on application requirements and loads served.

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Starting Time Requirements – Canada

CSA 282

6.4 Power Supply Performance

6.4.1.b ...an emergency electrical power supply system shall be connected to life safety equipment ...and similar equipment essential for the operation of the emergency electrical power supply system within:

i) 15 s of loss of normal power

ii) 10 s of loss of normal power ... to vital loads of the essential electrical systems in conformance with **CSA Z32**

6.4.1.c Connections to firefighters' elevators, elevators serving floors above the first story in a high building, and smoke-venting fans may be delayed up to 60 s.

CSA Z32

6.2.1 Vital and delayed vital branches ...allow the vital and delayed vital branch loads to be transferred within 10 s and 2 min, respectively...

Myths and Misconceptions

MYTH: "Gaseous generator sets may not be suitable for emergency or life safety applications."

- Generator set manufacturers may be able to offer gaseous-fueled products that meet a wide range of applications.
- Natural gas may be acceptable to local authority having jurisdiction for life safety applications.
- Gaseous products may provide advantages over diesel products in applications due to fuel quality and logistics.

Related

Content

NFPA 110 Time-to-Readiness Overview White Paper PowerHour Power topic #9002 | Technical information from Cummins Power Generation

Application of lean-burn gas generator sets in standby service

> White paper By Tim Loehline, Technical Specialist—Electrical



Our energy working for you.™

Standby generator sets have been traditionally diesel engine driven and in limited cases stoichiometric (rich burn) natural gas or propane. These are popular choices because they provide a high level of performance and in the case of diesel especially, provide a high ratio of energy per unit volume of fuel stored at site.

More recently there is an increased interest in utilizing generator sets fueled by natural gas or renewable gaseous fuels. This trend is driven by a number of factors such as low exhaust emissions, higher efficiency, reduced carbon footprint, a desire to avoid diesel fuel storage issues, and potentially the use of renewable fuels.

Within Cummins Power Generation's line of products there is a range of reciprocating gaseous fueled generator sets that utilize lean-burn technology. lean-burn technology incorporates high air to fuel ratio and excess oxygen to gain overall output efficiency at greatly reduced NOx emissions.¹ These efficiency levels often exceed those of equivalent sized diesel products. Exhaust emissions are significantly lower than stoichiometric gas engines and greatly reduced from a diesel.

This paper addresses issues associated with lean-burn natural gas (LBNG) generator sets applied in standby service applications.

¹ Reference Cummins Power Generation: Power topic #7009, Lean-burn engine technology increases efficiency, reduces NOx emissions. Keith Packham.

Typical standby performance and ratings

A generator set in standby service as compared to other service such as peak Shaving or prime Power has unique requirements for starting and performance. Emergency codes such as NFPA 110 Standard for Emergency and standby Power Systems^{*} and CSA 282 Emergency Electrical Power Supply for Buildings have requirements for quick starting, 10 seconds for defined Emergency and some legally required systems. Certain other defined systems allow longer times to start and be ready to accept load, in some cases no time provisions are specified.

Load step acceptance capability is usually a critical factor in standby service. Switching from normal to emergency power sources through the use of large transfer switches high in the system usually result in single load steps that are a high percentage of the generator set rating. The generator set is not only expected to pick up this load step but to do it with relatively small voltage and frequency disturbance and to return to stability in a relatively short time. The practice of using smaller switching lower in the system mitigates this issue by dividing and sequencing load steps.

Another difference between standby and other service is typically the rating of a standby rated generator set is at or near its maximum capability in terms of engine horsepower and alternator kVA. One reason for this is to make full used of the hardware capability, providing adequate power in the smallest, lowest cost package available. The application designer must take this into account when considering total load and load step requirements.

Compliance to Codes and Standards Myths and Misconceptions

MYTH: "Because gaseous generator sets are ALWAYS cleaner than their diesel counterparts and they NEVER need exhaust aftertreatment."

Emissions Requirements

	Definition	How is it formed?	Diesel Engine	Gaseous Engine
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen	Forms at high in-cylinder temperatures, most prominent during high engine load.	\checkmark	\checkmark
HC	Over 100 different types of hydrocarbons	Product of incomplete combustion, most prominent during low engine load.	\checkmark	\checkmark
PM	Anything that is trapped on or condenses onto a filter	Most prominent during low load operation.	\checkmark	
CO	Carbon Monoxide	Product of imperfect combustion, most prominent during low engine load.	\checkmark	\checkmark
SO _x	Oxides of Sulfur	Product of combustion process when sulfur is present. Increases linearly with fuel consumption.	\checkmark	

Emissions Requirements

US EPA New Source Performance Standards (NSPS)

Fuel Type

- Compression Ignition (Diesel) and Spark-Ignited (Gaseous)
 Usage
- Stationary Emergency operation when utility power is not available
- Stationary Non-Emergency operation when utility power is available
- Non-road mobile, non-propulsion without operational limitation (trailerized)

Compliance to Codes and Standards Emissions Requirements

- Mandatory factory certification of rich burn propane engines
- Optional factory certification of all natural gas engines and lean burn propane engines
- If not factory certified, the owner/operator may be responsible for demonstrating compliance:

Engine Power	Maintenance plan and records, maintain/operate engine in a way to minimize emissions	Initial performance testing within 1 year of engine startup	Subsequent performance testing every 8,760 hours or 3 years, whichever comes first
< 100 hp	\checkmark		
100-500 hp	✓	✓	
> 500 hp	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark

Reference: 40 CFR 60 Subpart JJJJ §60.4243 (a)(2)(i-iii)

Spec Note Require generator set vendor to provide documentation demonstrating compliance with specific emissions levels or engine certification.

Compliance to Codes and Standards Emissions Requirements - Canada

Maintenance and NOx emission intensity limits for modern engines

Regular-Use, Modern Engines Engine Power	NOx emission intensity limit Ppmvd-15% / g/kWh	Initial performance testing within 1 year of engine startup	Subsequent emissions checks every year
75 - 375 kW	160 / 2.7	✓	
< 375 kW	160 / 2.7	\checkmark	\checkmark
Low-Use, Modern Engines Engine Power	NOx emission intensity limit Ppmvd-15% / g/kWh	Initial performance testing within 1 year of engine startup	Subsequent emissions checks every year
< 100 kW	160 / 2.7	None	None

Emissions Requirements

US EPA New Source Performance Standards (NSPS)

Fuel Type

- Compression Ignition (Diesel) and Spark-Ignited (Gaseous)
 Usage
- Stationary Emergency operation when utility power is not available
- Stationary Non-Emergency operation when utility power is available
- Non-road mobile, non-propulsion without operational limitation (trailerized)

Local Air Quality Management Board

May mandate stringent emissions limits requiring exhaust aftertreatment

Spec Note Require generator set vendor to provide documentation demonstrating compliance with specific emissions level requirement and applicable test methodology.

Aftertreatment Systems

Emissions requirements and usage may drive need for aftertreatment when applicable

- Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) reduces PM
- Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) reduces NOx
- Oxidation Catalyst (OxiCat) reduces CO, HC, some PM
- Three Way Catalyst reduces CO, HC, some PM



Spec Note Federal and local emissions requirements & usage are key specification inputs. Work with manufacturer to determine best approach for aftertreatment systems if necessary.

Myths and Misconceptions

MYTH: "Because gaseous generator sets are cleaner than their diesel counterparts, they NEVER need exhaust aftertreatment."

- Emissions limits may be based on a combination of Federal (US EPA), state (local air board) or customer-driven requirements.
- Application type (standby vs. nonroad, emergency vs. non-emergency) drive emissions limits.
- Engine manufacturers offer a wide range of products capable of meeting the most stringent requirements.
- In some cases, exhaust aftertreatment may be needed to achieve targeted emissions levels.



Concept Check

When specifying a generator set solution for an emergency power system, make sure to include... (choose all that apply)

- a) US EPA and other applicable emissions requirements
- b) ISO 8528 Power rating
- c) NFPA 110 Type requirement for system
- d) Engine air/fuel ratio

Concept Check

When specifying a generator set solution for an emergency power system, make sure to include... (choose all that apply)

- a) US EPA and other applicable emissions requirements
- b) ISO 8528 Power rating
- c) NFPA 110 Type requirement for system
- d) Engine air/fuel ratio
Gaseous and Diesel Generator Sets

- Foundation, mounting and vibration isolation
- Exhaust systems
- Cooling and ventilation
- Service and maintenance access
- Starting system
- Sound considerations
- Remote monitoring solutions
- Housing and enclosure requirements

Related

Content Generator Set Application Manual Application Guidelines T-030



Fuel Source and Maintenance

Maintenance of Diesel Fuel

Diesel fuel quality critical to equipment operation.

- Typical stable lifespan of diesel is 12 16 months in ideal conditions.
- Diesel sulfur content reduction (ULSD) limits fuel's anti-microbial properties.
- Bio-diesel blending may reduce fuel stability (up to 6 months), promotes water absorption and biomass growth.



Spec Note Require vendors to provide service and maintenance contracts that include fuel testing at least annually.

Fuel Source and Maintenance

Maintenance of Gaseous Fuel

- Natural gas available through extensive pipeline network
- Avoid fuel transportation, handling, and storage issues
- No fuel tank cleaning required
- No fuel degradation over time
- Various fuels can be used



Fuel System Requirements

- Volume and pressure must be available at RATED load, not static pressure
- Be aware of fuel system pressure drop
- Provide a dedicated fuel line to generator set
- Accumulator or compressor to boost pressure, if necessary
- Consult generator set manufacturer for specific fuel system requirements.

Fuel system

Gas supply pressure to engine inlet, bar (psi) ⁸	0.2 (2.9)
Minimum methane index	62



Spec Note Require generator set vendors to provide documentation indicating engine minimum fuel pressure at rated load.

Operational Considerations

Operating Costs of NG-Fueled Generator Sets

Natural Gas Operating Costs

- Natural gas generator set may be associated with greater capital costs (when compared to diesel) due to power density.
- Long term total cost of ownership indicates for diesel and natural gas products to be comparable in similar applications.
- Non-emergency operation (demand response, peaking, etc.) mandates Tier 4 levels for CI engines minimizing capital investment difference when compared to natural gas.



Gaseous Generator Set Applications Myths and Misconceptions

MYTH: "Gaseous generator set transient performance and load acceptance is always worse than their diesel counterparts."

Engine control and fueling strategies continue to evolve.

- Rated load acceptance may not be suitable as a benchmark for product performance – transient performance limits must be based on application.
- Generator set sizing software may help to determine right-size generator set for a given application.

Power Suite™					
- A	Ноте	Sizing	Specifications	Library	Other Tools
GenSize > GenSize Edit Project					
Size Edit Project: [Demo]					
Project Options Loo	Options	Step Options	Edit Options	Sizing Repor	t Options Library
┢╊┚╋╵╏╶┊	1 🖥 🗊 🗐 😘 💉 🔽		9 2 6 m		
ect Overview	Load Details:Light Loa	a 1			
Demo Image: Constraint of the second seco	Load Name		Light Load 1		
	Comments				
	Туре		Light Load		
	Light Type		Incandescent		
	Phase		Three		
	Project Voltage		277/480, Serles Wye		
	Voltage		480		
	Running kW		200.00		
	Running kVA		200.00		
	Running PF		1.00		
	Running Amps		240.85		
	Starting kW		200.00		
	Starting kVA		200.00		
	Starting PF		1.00		
	Max, % Voltage Dip		35		

GenSize on powersuite.cummins.com

Spec Note Require generator set vendors to provide documentation from sizing software indicating compliance with transient and other project limits.

Concept Check

When considering natural gas generator sets, which of these are NOT a key installation and operational differentiators when compared to diesel generator sets?

- a) Fuel system design requirements
- b) Fuel quality management
- c) Foundation, mounting and vibration
- d) Cost of operation

Concept Check

When considering natural gas generator sets, which of these are NOT a key installation and operational differentiators when compared to diesel generator sets?

- a) Fuel system design requirements
- b) Fuel quality management
- c) Foundation, mounting and vibration
- d) Cost of operation

Gaseous Generator Sets

Key Takeaways

Natural gas fueled generator sets can provide...

... reliable power generation in emergency and non-emergency applications

... emissions solutions that fit application requirements

... high efficiency options for prime and continuous operation

... compliance with appropriate codes and standards

... low or comparable cost of ownership

... strong performance capability comparable to diesel counterparts.



Course Summary

Considerations for Specifying Generator Set Fuel Sources

- Recognize performance requirements applicable to both diesel and gaseous generator sets.
- Describe key features and capabilities of gaseous generator sets.
- List key considerations unique to gaseous generator set installation.

Key Takeaways

- Write specifications based on performance and application requirements such loads, transient limits, emissions, start-time and other code-driven requirements.
- Consider gaseous-fueled generator sets in applications where appropriate.

Additional Resources

Cummins White Papers

- NFPA 110 Type 10 Starting Requirements for Generator Set Applications
- <u>Understanding EPA NSPS Emissions Regulations for Stationary</u> <u>Spark-ignited Engines</u>
- <u>The Latest Evolution Of Distributed Energy Resources:</u> Opportunity For Business Within The PJM

Cummins On-Demand Webinars

- NFPA 110 Type 10 Requirements for Emergency Power Systems
- Gaseous Generator Set Installations and Case Studies
- Introduction to Generator Set Sizing Software
- EPA Emissions and Air Permitting

POWER TOPIC 8003 | TECHNICAL INFORMATION FROM CUMMINS POWER GENERATION

UNDERSTANDING EPA NSPS EMISSIONS REGULATIONS FOR STATIONARY SPARK-IGNITED ENGINES

White Paper Cummins Content

On June 12, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) to regulate emissions from stationary spark-ignited engines and then finalized these standards on January 18th, 2008. Until the issuance of the SI NSPS, there were no Federal (US) emissions regulations for stationary natural gas or propane engines. Emissions regulations for stationary engines were usually governed by state and local permitting authorities and varied by the annual operating hours for the application.

This paper explains how the EPA NSPS apply to spark-ignited engines used in generator sets.

IMPORTANT EPA DEFINITIONS

Stationary power sources such as diesel, natural gas or propane generator sets are regulated differently than non-road engine/generators such as rental or portable equipment. Additionally, emergency and non-emergency generator sets are regulated differently. Therefore, it is important to know how the EPA distinguishes emergency from non-emergency stationary engines and how the regulations for stationary applications differ from non-road engine regulations.

Q&A

Please type your questions, comments and feedback in the **Zoom Q&A** window.

After the PowerHour, a complete list of questions and answers will be published on powersuite.cummins.com.

Please complete the brief survey after exiting the webinar!



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