

LOAD BANK TESTING

Is Your Generator Running at Peak Health? A Load Bank Test Can Reveal Potential Problems

Weekly test runs of a stand-by generator can tell an operator that the unit will start and run. But over time, these short tests, frequently performed under very limited load, may be causing more harm than good and hiding serious issues. A Load Bank Test simulates a working load on your generator, clearing out built up carbon deposits, and exposing potential threats.

An Essential Part of Any Generator Maintenance Plan

WHAT IS A LOAD BANK?

A Load Bank is nothing more than a big heater. It allows a technician to artificially apply load to a generator independent from the building's electrical systems and without business disruption.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Simulating an actual power outage under the watchful eye of the trained technician, heating elements of the Load Bank are manually switched on at specific time intervals. Systems are monitored at each interval and checked for leaks, belt wear, exhaust smoke, and any other anomaly during operation. Recordings are made to reflect changes in engine temperature, oil pressure, volts, amps, battery voltage, hours, and kW.

WHY SHOULD A LOAD BANK TEST BE PERFORMED?

There are 3 main reasons to have a Load Bank Test performed.

- 1) **Visible thick black exhaust smoke during generator operation** - This is a symptom of Wet Stacking, or excessive build-up of carbon and oil around the engine turbo and exhaust manifolds robbing engine power. The Load Bank Test will allow the engine to run hard and burn off this residue and build-up.
- 2) **Are you a Level 1 or 2 Facility?** If so, and your generator doesn't reach 30% of its rated kW during monthly tests, then a Load Bank is required to ensure it is capable of reaching its rating during an actual emergency.
- 3) **To verify generator kW output** - Considering adding electrical draw to your existing emergency circuit? Understanding what your generator is capable of is a critical first step.

WILL IT DISRUPT MY BUSINESS OPERATION?

Load Bank Tests are performed without disruption to commercial service. To protect load bank equipment, tests are not performed in rain or during stormy weather, so it is unlikely that there would be a loss of ground power during a Load Bank Test. However, should an outage occur, the technician would simply reconnect cables and apply generator power.

CAN A LOAD BANK HARM MY GENERATOR?

A Load Bank is doing nothing more than simulating the load that your generator would likely see during an actual emergency. Should something go wrong during the test, it would have surely gone wrong when you least expect. But that's why we perform these tests, as it's better to know of a problem before an event.

Digital display for precise readings and accurate reports



Connects directly to generator bypassing a buildings electrical system

Be Proactive

P3LoadBankTesting



#morethanmaintenance



P3 Generator Services | 7 Edge Road, Alpha, NJ 08865 | (908) 454-1124 | Email: info@P3GeneratorServices.com