Generator Inspection Checklist: Daily Pre-Use Safety Checks

Frequency	Completed by	Approved by	The checklist
Daily	Operator or person responsible for the generator	Supervisor	35 checks · 5 sections

INSPECTION DETAILS

Site / area: .....
Generator (make, model): .....
Equipment ID or serial number: .....
Type: .....
Fuel: .....
Rated output on the nameplate (kVA): .....
Date of last periodic control: .....
Date and time: .....

Placement and ventilation (engine stopped)

1.	The generator stands outdoors, not inside a building, garage, basement, crawl space or other enclosed space **CRITICAL** Open doors and windows may not stop carbon monoxide from building up. Ref.: [7] [9] [10] [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
2.	The generator is not near doors, windows, vents or air intakes through which exhaust could enter occupied spaces **CRITICAL** Ref.: [7] [9]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
3.	There is 3 to 4 feet (about 0.9 to 1.2 m) of clear space on all sides of the generator and above it This distance is from OSHA's fact sheet. Use the manufacturer's figure if it is larger. Ref.: [7] [9]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
4.	The generator is dry and protected from rain; it does not stand in water **CRITICAL** A canopy can keep rain off an open-frame set. It must not enclose the generator or block its ventilation. Ref.: [7] [9] [10]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

5.	The generator stands on firm, level ground and is secured so that it cannot move, roll or tip Brakes on or wheels chocked; trailer supports lowered. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
6.	Fuel containers and other flammable materials are kept away from the generator and from any other source of heat or flame Ref.: [7] [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
7.	The generator is as far from work areas and gathering places as practicable, or hearing protection is worn near it Ref.: [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Engine and fuel (engine stopped)

8.	The frame, housing, mountings and lifting or towing points show no cracks, loose fixings or deformation Ref.: [1] [9]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
9.	The fuel tank, cap and fuel lines are tight and do not leak; there is no spilled fuel on or under the generator CRITICAL Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite. Clean up any spill before starting. Ref.: [9] [6] [7] [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
10.	Guards and covers over the fan, belt and other moving parts are in place, undamaged and firmly fixed CRITICAL Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
11.	The exhaust and other hot parts are shielded or placed so that nobody can touch them by accident, and nothing combustible rests against them A generator stays hot for a long time after it has stopped. Ref.: [1] [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
12.	Engine oil, and coolant on liquid-cooled sets, are at the levels given in the manufacturer's manual Check with the engine stopped and cool, as the manual describes. Ref.: [1] [9]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
13.	The generator is refuelled only with the engine stopped and cooled down CRITICAL Fill the tank before the shift so that it does not have to be topped up while hot. Ref.: [7] [6] [10]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
14.	Nobody smokes and there is no open flame where the generator is refuelled or fuel is kept Ref.: [6] [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

15.	Fuel is kept and carried only in approved containers made for fuel and marked with their contents Ref.: [6] [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
16.	A fire extinguisher suitable for fuel and electrical fires is close to the generator and the refuelling point US construction rule for fuelling areas: rated at least 20-B:C and within 75 feet (about 23 m). Ref.: [6] [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Earthing, protection and cables (engine stopped)

17.	The generator is earthed (grounded) as the manufacturer's instructions and the site's electrical design require; any earth conductor and rod connection is tight and undamaged CRITICAL OSHA lets the frame serve as the grounding electrode only when the generator supplies cord-and-plug equipment through its own receptacles and these are bonded to the frame. HSE says larger generators supplying a site should be earthed. If unsure, ask a competent electrician. Ref.: [2] [8] [7] [10] [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
18.	The generator is not connected to the wiring of a building or cabin, unless through a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician CRITICAL A direct connection can energise the supply network and electrocute people working on it. Ref.: [7] [8]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
19.	The sockets or outgoing circuits in use are protected by an RCD (GFCI) where the rules for the site require it CRITICAL US construction: GFCI on 120 V single-phase 15 and 20 A receptacles, or an assured grounding program. HSE: RCD on each circuit where more than one earthed (Class I) item is supplied, and on the outgoing circuits of larger generators. Ref.: [2] [10] [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
20.	No circuit breaker, fuse or RCD has been bypassed, bridged or disabled CRITICAL A device that keeps tripping points to a fault: have a competent person find it. Ref.: [10] [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
21.	Sockets, switches and the control panel are undamaged and dry, their covers are in place, and no live part or burn mark can be seen CRITICAL Ref.: [1] [11] [10] [3]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

22.	Extension cables, plugs and connectors have no cuts, fraying, taped joints, cracked casings or bent or missing pins **CRITICAL** The outer sheath should be gripped where it enters the plug: no coloured inner cores showing. Ref.: [4] [5] [10] [11] [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
23.	Extension cables are flexible, have an earth (grounding) conductor, and are rated for the load and for outdoor or site use US construction: three-wire cords designed for hard or extra-hard usage. HSE: twin and earth cable is not used as an extension cable. Ref.: [3] [8] [7] [10]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
24.	Cables are run where vehicles, sharp edges and doors cannot damage them, they do not lie in water, and they do not cross walkways as a trip hazard Ref.: [3] [4] [10]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
25.	The total connected load does not exceed the rated output on the generator's nameplate Overloading leads to overheating, which can start a fire. Ref.: [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
26.	The stop control, the emergency stop where fitted, and the main breaker can be seen, identified and reached Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
27.	The periodic control of the generator and of the earthing installation is in date, and the report is available Türkiye: at least once a year unless a standard sets another period. A mobile generator used off the premises carries its last report with it. Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Running check (no load connected)

28.	The generator starts and runs without unusual noise, vibration, smoke or smell **CRITICAL** Switch off electrical equipment that smells strange or starts to smoke, and do not use it. Ref.: [1] [7]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
29.	Where fitted, the voltage, frequency, oil pressure and temperature readings are in the manufacturer's normal range and no warning is showing Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
30.	No fuel, oil or coolant leaks while the engine runs, and exhaust gas escapes only from the exhaust outlet **CRITICAL** Ref.: [1] [9]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

31.	Each RCD (GFCI) trips when its test button is pressed, and resets **CRITICAL** HSE recommends this check daily. An RCD that does not trip is a failed critical check. Ref.: [10] [8]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A
32.	The stop control, and the emergency stop where fitted, stops the generator **CRITICAL** Ref.: [1]	◯ Pass ◯ Fail ◯ N/A

Result

33.	Every defect found has been recorded and reported to the supervisor Ref.: [1] [11] [8]	◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ N/A
34.	If a critical check failed, the generator is stopped, its loads are disconnected and it is tagged "Do not use" until it has been repaired **CRITICAL** Ref.: [1] [5] [8] [10]	◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ N/A
35.	Notes and defects found	Note: _____

Critical check: if it fails, stop and correct it before work continues.

SIGN-OFF

Operator

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Supervisor

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Legal basis and references

[1] Türkiye: İş Ekipmanlarının Kullanımında Sağlık ve Güvenlik Şartları Yönetmeliği (Resmî Gazete, 25.04.2013) — Article 7 (periodic control); Annex I 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, 2.10, 2.14, 2.17 to 2.19 (stopping, fixing, guards, hot parts, energy isolation, fire, electricity); Annex II 2.5 (combustion-engine mobile equipment only with sufficient air); Annex III 1.2, 1.3 to 1.3.2 (maintenance, operator check before each start of work, defective equipment out of use), 1.9, 2.3 and Table 3 (generator and earthing installation, 1 year).

[2] United States: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.404, Wiring design and protection (construction) — (b)(1) ground-fault protection on construction sites and the exception for two-wire generators up to 5 kW; (f)(3) grounding of portable and vehicle-mounted generators. 29 CFR 1910.304(g)(3) has the same generator rule for general industry.

[3] United States: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.405, Wiring methods, components, and equipment for general use (construction) — (a)(2)(ii)(I) flexible cords protected from damage; (a)(2)(ii)(J) three-wire extension cords for hard or extra-hard usage; (e)(2) and (j)(2)(ii) switches and receptacles in wet locations.

[4] United States: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.416, General requirements (electrical safety-related work practices, construction) — (b)(2) walkways kept clear of cords; (e)(1) worn or frayed cords and cables not used.

[5] United States: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.334, Use of equipment (electrical safety-related work practices) — (a)(2) visual inspection of cord- and plug-connected equipment and extension cords before use on any shift; defective items removed from service.

[6] United States: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.152, Flammable liquids (construction) — (a)(1) approved containers; (f)(2) leakage and spillage; (g)(8) no smoking or open flames in fuelling areas; (g)(10) motors shut off during fuelling; (g)(11) fire extinguisher at fuelling areas.

[7] United States: OSHA Fact Sheet, Using Portable Generators Safely (FS-3286) — Shock and backfeed, cords, GFCIs, grounding, keeping the generator dry, carbon monoxide and placement, refuelling and fuel storage, noise. Informational: it sets no new requirements.

[8] United States: OSHA Fact Sheet, Grounding Requirements for Portable Generators — When the frame replaces a grounding electrode, transfer switches, cords with a grounding conductor, visual inspection before use and tagging defective equipment. Informational.

[9] United States: OSHA Alert, Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning While Working with Portable Generators (OSHA 4105, 2020) — Inspect for damage or loose fuel lines, keep dry, never indoors or near doors, windows and ventilation shafts, 3 to 4 feet of clear space.

[10] United Kingdom: HSE, Electrical safety on construction sites, HSG141 (second edition, 2023) — Paragraphs 59, 62 to 64 (damaged equipment, cables, maintenance, RCDs never bypassed); 68, 70 and 71 (daily RCD test, user checks); 75 and 79 (IP rating, cable routes); 81 to 87 (generators: enclosed spaces, fuel, earthing, RCD protection). Guidance.

[11] United Kingdom: HSE, Maintaining portable electrical equipment, HSG107 (third edition, 2013) — Paragraphs 38 and 39 (user checks on cables, plugs, sockets and extension leads; faults reported and equipment taken out of use). Used for the cables and connectors only; generators themselves are outside its scope.

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