

Standby, Continuous & Prime Power: Which Do I Need?

A Diesel Generator can serve a variety of purposes for a business, and for someone who isn't well-versed in industry jargon, it can be difficult to find the perfect power solution for your needs. In this post, we'll discuss the difference between Standby, Continuous & Prime power – and which you'll need in your optimal, UK-Manufactured CPS Generator.

Standby Power

Standby power generators are ideal for indoor applications, as they are typically used in emergencies in power-sensitive areas. For example, if you work in a medical or laboratory environment or an office building which could not function without power. A standby generator is to be used only for the duration of a power outage and regular testing and maintenance, not as a primary generator. If you do not have a primary power system – such as a mains supply – in your location a standby generator is not the choice for you, but it may be a good idea to get a standby power generator alongside another power rating to ensure around the clock power no matter what.

Prime Power

Prime power generators are essentially generators that can be used as a primary power source without issue. Our prime power generators are tested, as with all our generators, at 110% load to ensure they can supply power in a situation where there is no utility source. A prime power generator is ideal for industrial & construction applications or any location in a remote area where a mains supply is not accessible and/or costly. Generators that are intended for prime operations are designed to run almost indefinitely provided that the load is constantly varying between 50% and 100% of the generator's rating. Running any lower (aka 'light/low loading') is considered bad practice on a prime power generator, as it will almost certainly cause the engine to not burn fuel properly. This could lead to a build-up of unburnt fuel and soot in the exhaust. This Build-up typically leads to a noticeable decrease in efficiency and could even damage the generator – which is not ideal for your main power supply.

Continuous Power

Continuous power is similar to prime power, with a few key difference. It can supply power continuously, just like a prime power generator, but they can't typically handle overload conditions or work optimally under variable loads. The main difference between a prime and continuous rating is that prime power Diesel generators are set to have maximum power available at a variable load for an unlimited number of hours, and they generally include a 10% or so overload capability for short durations.

Hopefully, this article has given you a better understanding of what you need in a CPS Generator. We offer free consultation and bespoke Diesel generators to ensure you get the perfect generator for your needs - and our comprehensive after-sales service will ensure any issues you may have can be solved quickly. For UK-manufactured generators tailored to you, check out our range today.

