



BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

OSHA On-Site Consultation Program

OSHA's On-Site Consultation (OSC) Program offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services for small and medium-sized business. When employers use consultation services the employers and their workers experience benefits that include lower injury and illness rates, improved morale, and economic benefits.

What Is the On-Site Consultation Program?

The OSHA OSC Program provides occupational safety and health services to small businesses (companies with 250 or fewer employees on a single site and fewer than 500 employees corporate-wide) and medium-sized establishments (companies with 250 or fewer employees on a single site, but with 500 or more employees corporate-wide) This consultation program helps employers reduce the likelihood of workplace injuries and illnesses by working with them to identify and correct workplace hazards, provide advice for compliance with OSHA standards, and assist in establishing and improving safety and health programs.

This program operates separately from OSHA enforcement efforts. However, employers must agree to correct any serious and imminent danger hazards identified in a timely manner. The US and NYS Departments of Labor fund this program.

Because the OSC Program is voluntary, requests for an on-site consultation are always initiated by the employer. After an employer makes a request, and the consultation visit is scheduled, the consultant travels to the worksite to evaluate potential hazards, work practices, and the employer's safety and health program. Training programs are also available for businesses after completion of the initial hazard survey.

During a consultation visit, the consultant completes a workplace audit to identify hazards and assess the employer's safety and health

program. The audit identifies 58 attributes distributed into seven safety and health program elements, including:

- Management Leadership
- Worker Participation
- Hazard Anticipation and Detection
- Hazard Prevention and Control
- Planning and Evaluation
- Administration and Supervision
- Safety and Health Training

The consultant evaluates the employer's safety and health program, identifies program deficiencies, and suggests corrective measures and areas for improvement.

At the end of the visit, the consultant discusses findings with the employer and recommends improvements. All serious and imminent danger hazards that are identified must be corrected within a specific time period agreed upon by the consultant and the employer, but no fines or penalties are assessed as a result of the visit.

Estimating the Value of the On-Site Consultation Program

Economic benefits to workers are realized through prevented injuries and illnesses and include factors such as reduced pain and suffering, a decrease in lost income (above and beyond that compensated by workers' compensation), and avoidance of the dislocating effects of permanent partial disabilities.

Economic benefits to employers include the avoidance of various indirect costs associated with workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths. Such indirect costs include loss of productivity, the cost of hiring and training replacement workers, property damage, and time spent on administrative tasks such as accident investigations or filing claims.

To learn more or schedule an on-site consultation visit go to: <https://dol.ny.gov/site-consultation-program>



Monthly Toolbox Talk

Portable Generators

Safe Work Practices

- Maintain and operate portable generators in accordance with the manufacturer's use and safety instructions.
- Always plug electrical appliances and tools directly into the generator, using the appliance manufacturer's supplied cords. Use heavy-duty extension cords that contain a grounding conductor (3-wire flexible cord and 3-pronged cord connectors).
- Proper grounding and bonding are a means to prevent shocks and electrocutions.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not connect a generator to a structure unless the generator has a properly installed transfer switch.
- Visually inspect the equipment before use; remove defective equipment from service; mark or tag it as unsafe for use.

Grounding Requirements for Portable and Vehicle-mounted Generators

Under the following conditions, OSHA directs that the frame of a portable generator need not be grounded (connected to earth) and that the frame may serve as the ground (in place of the earth):

- The generator supplies only equipment mounted on the generator and/or cord and plug-connected equipment through receptacles mounted on the generator, and
- The noncurrent-carrying metal parts of equipment (such as the fuel tank, the internal combustion engine, and the generator's housing) are bonded to the generator frame, and the equipment grounding conductor terminals (of the power receptacles that are a part of [mounted on] the generator) are bonded to the generator frame.

Thus, rather than connect to a grounding electrode system, such as a driven ground rod, the generator's frame replaces the grounding electrode. If these conditions do not exist, then a grounding electrode, such as a ground rod, is required.

Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning While Working with Portable Generators

Follow these work practices to prevent over exposure to carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless, and toxic gas:

- Inspect the generator for damage or loose fuel lines.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Never use a portable generator indoors, or in enclosed spaces such as garages, crawl spaces, and basements.
- Generators should be used outdoors, but never place a generator near doors, windows, or ventilation shafts where CO can enter and build up.
- Make sure the generator has 3 to 4 feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.
- If you or others show symptoms of CO poisoning—dizziness, headaches, nausea/vomiting, tiredness, confusion, unconsciousness—get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention.

Safe Work Practices for Portable Tools include:

- Do not use underrated cords—replace them with appropriately rated cords that use heavier gauge wires.

- Never use electrical tools or appliances with frayed cords, missing grounding prongs, or damaged or cracked housings.
- Use double-insulated tools and equipment distinctively marked as such, where possible.
- Use battery-operated tools, where possible.

Verification by Testing

The integrity of the connection between the generator's frame and the equipment grounding terminals of power receptacles is important to the safe use of the equipment. The connection may be confirmed via testing by a competent electrician with the correct equipment.

Bonding versus Grounding

Bonding and grounding are separate requirements for generators and other electrical distribution systems. Grounding means the connection, or the establishment of a connection, of an electric circuit or equipment to reference ground, which includes the generator's frame. Bonding is the intentional connection between the grounded circuit conductor (neutral) and the grounding means for the generator, which includes the generator's frame. Thus, effective bonding of the neutral conductor to the generator's frame is also a concern for the safe use of the equipment. As with grounding terminal connections, proper bonding of the neutral terminal of a power receptacle may be confirmed via testing by a competent electrician with the correct equipment.

HOW THIS TOPIC APPLIES TO THIS JOB:

ATTENDEES: Print Name / Signature (use back if necessary)

DATE: _____

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE:

JOBSITE / PROJECT:

