

NFPA 37

Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines

2006 Edition

Reference: 4.1.4

FI 06-1 (NFPA 37)

Background: Subsection 4.1.4 of NFPA 37 reads as follows: “4.1.4 Engines Located Outdoors. Engines, and their weatherproof housings if provided, that are installed outdoors shall be located at least 1.5 m (5 ft) from openings in walls and at least 1.5 m (5 ft) from structures having combustible walls. A minimum separation shall not be required where the following conditions exist:

- (1) The adjacent wall of the structure has a fire resistance rating of at least 1 hour.
- (2)* The weatherproof enclosure is constructed of noncombustible materials and it has been demonstrated that a fire within the enclosure will not ignite combustible materials outside the enclosure.”

Question No. 1: Is it the intent of Subsection 4.1.4 of NFPA 37 to require both conditions (1) and (2) to be complied with in order for an installation to be exempt from the minimum separation specified by 4.1.4?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: If the answer to Question No 1 is “No”, is it the intent of Subsection 4.1.4 of NFPA 37 to require either condition (1) or condition (2) to be complied with in order for an installation to be exempt from the minimum separation specified by 4.1.4?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 2006

Reference: 4.1.4

Issue Date: April 14, 2009

Effective Date: April 28, 2009

Formal Interpretation

NFPA 37

Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines

2006 Edition

Reference: 5.2(4)

F.I. No.: 37-02-1

Question No. 1: Is the purpose of the manual leak test valve to test each automatic safety shut-off valve (ASSV) to verify that gas does not leak through the ASSV when the ASSV is closed?

Answer: Yes

Question No. 2: Is it the sole purpose of the manual leak test valve to test each ASSV to verify that gas does not leak through the ASSV when the ASSV is closed?

Answer: Yes

Question No. 3: Does the phrase “gas train” in A.5.2 of NFPA 37 refer to the piping and components located downstream of the gas meter and up to, but not beyond, the point where the gas supply piping is connected to piping furnished with the stationary engine?

Answer: Yes

Issue Edition: 2002

Reference: 5.2. (6)

Issue Date: January 15, 2004

Effective Date: February 4, 2004

Formal Interpretation

NFPA 37

Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines

2006 Edition

Reference: 11.4.2.1

F.I. No.: 37-98-1

Question No. 1: Is it the intent of 11.4.2.1 to prohibit the installation of an automatic fuel stop valve, actuated by an automatic fire extinguishing system, in the fuel supply to engines used for emergency use?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: Is it the intent of paragraph 11.4.2.1 to prohibit the installation of an automatic fuel stop valve, actuated by a manually actuated fire extinguishing system in the fuel supply to engines used for emergency use?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: Is it the intent of the Standard to allow the owner or designer of a stationary, emergency use, combustion engine or gas turbine, to have the discretion to decide (in consultation with their insurers, AHJs, and others) whether or not to include an automatic fuel stop valve in the fuel system.

(An answer of “no” to this question would mean that the owner or designer has no discretion and that the automatic stop valve requirements are mandated by code.)

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1998

Reference: 10-4.2.1

Issue Date: June 19, 2000

Effective Date: July 10, 2000