

Deployment of Suitcase Generators

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Applicable to	All personnel who deploy suitcase generators

Safety Bulletin 06/2016 'Deployment of suitcase generators' has now been superseded by SB 03/2018

We have recently had a serious near miss where ENW have fitted a suitcase generator to a customer's property near to an air brick allowing toxic fumes into the property. Fortunately the customer has a carbon monoxide monitor which activated and they were able to contact the emergency services. The investigation into the incidents have concluded and initiated a review of the safe use of suitcase generators.

The generator exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide; a colourless and odourless gas. Breathing carbon monoxide can cause loss of consciousness and may lead to death. If you run the generator in an area that is confined, or even partially enclosed area, the air you breathe could contain a dangerous amount of exhaust gas.

Key points you must know:

- All personnel employed in the transportation, connection, refuelling and disconnection of suitcase generators must have access to and be familiar with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations for the safe use of this equipment.
- A copy of the manual for the current company model is available (Honda EU2000i) is available here <http://cdn.powerequipment.honda.com/pe/pdf/manuals/31Z07610.pdf>
- If this is not the model you are using you must obtain, and familiarise yourself with the specific operating and maintenance manual for your specific equipment prior to use.
- A risk assessment **must be completed** prior to connection of any generator
- The point of work risk assessment **must** consider the following risk:
 - carbon monoxide poisoning from the exhaust fumes
 - electric shock from faulty apparatus
 - fire and burns from hot generator components
 - tripping hazards from the generator or the trailing leads
- Under no circumstances can a generator be connected inside a garage, house, or near an open window or door.
- The position of air bricks and other ventilation into the property must be taken into account and included on the risk assessment

Only where your point of work risk assessment has satisfied the above criteria and the suitcase generator can be adequately secured against theft should you consider the use of this apparatus.

