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**Portable Generator Manufacturers  
Set New Standard for Safe Generator Use**  
*ANSI/PGMA G300 is the only comprehensive standard for  
safe, rigorously tested, high-performing portable generators*

February 2, 2021—Portable generators are vital to the building trades, acting as a convenient, easy-to-move source of spot power on job sites. But, like any tool, safe and proper use is critical to a safe outcome. With portable generators, that means never operating a generator indoors or in any enclosed spaces, thereby limiting exposure to carbon monoxide (CO). Some crews might be tempted to bring generators inside, believing an unfinished structure provides adequate ventilation. But the risks are real and, until recently, there was no comprehensive industry standard to ensure safety.

That all changed with the updated ANSI/PGMA G300-2018 Safety and Performance of Portable Generators Standard (G300), which includes a requirement that portable generators include automatic carbon monoxide (CO) shut-off technology. While each manufacturer's approach is unique, all generators that meet the standard automatically sense CO levels that approach dangerous levels, shutting off the portable generator engine before carbon monoxide concentrations exceed 800 ppm (parts per million). Once the engine has been shut down, a notification light remains illuminated for a minimum of five minutes after shutoff occurs.

Extensive testing in indoor, outdoor, and “real world” situations demonstrates that these shutoffs will prevent more than 99% of fatalities from exposure to CO from a portable generator.

Susan Orenga, executive director of the Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association, explains that “nearly all fatalities associated with misuse of portable generators happen inside. We want to ensure consumers understand the issues of misusing a portable generator, so PGMA developed its extensive [Take it Outside™](#) education and awareness campaign.”

Orenga stresses nothing is more important than proper use, but adds, “having the shutoff requirement in the G300 standard is a potentially lifesaving failsafe.”

While CO safety is the big news in the updated standard, the G300 standard contains a comprehensive guide for every facet of portable generator safety and performance, covering topics like general electrical construction requirements, properly guarding moving parts, preventing mechanical hazards and electrical shock hazards, as well as strict testing that manufacturers have to pass, including temperature tests, drop tests, and more.

ANSI/PGMA G300-2018 has buy-in from portable generator manufacturers because it was created by the industry's own Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association with the assistance of industry experts. This gives ANSI/PGMA G300 the advantage over any conflicting standards because ANSI/PGMA G300 is already familiar to manufacturers and incorporated into products.

It is also the only comprehensive standard for the safety and performance of portable generators. Other standards might cover one or some aspects of safety and/or performance, whereas ANSI/PGMA G300 is all-encompassing.

Running a portable generator outside—far from doors and windows in well-ventilated areas—is the only way to maintain safety. Users can be assured that portable generators bearing the notice that they are ANSI/PGMA G300 compliant are the among safest, rigorously tested, highest-performing portable generators on the market.

To read the full PGMA/ANSI G300-2018 standard, click [here](#).

### **About PGMA**

The Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association (PGMA) is a trade association that seeks to develop and influence safety and performance standards for our industry's products. The Association is also dedicated to educating consumers and tradespersons on the safe use of portable generators and has developed the Take it Outside™ campaign to support its mission. Formed in 2009, PGMA members include major manufacturers of portable generators sold in North America and a significant majority of the industry. [www.pgmaonline.com](http://www.pgmaonline.com).

**Member companies include:** American Honda Motor Co., Briggs & Stratton Corporation, Champion Power Equipment, DuroMax Power Equipment, Firman Power Equipment, Generac Power Systems, Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc., Yamaha Motor Corp USA, Figaro USA, Inc., and GenTent Safety Canopies.

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