Q: Last week IDPH was in for our annual survey. I told The Life Safety Surveyor that we were going to be upgrading the generator. He stated that IDPH had to review the plans prior to doing this. I did not anticipate that answer and do not want to raise a red flag by calling them to ask. Would you know if that is true or not? If it is, any advice on a quick response from IDPH so we can stay on schedule with the upgrade?

A: With the new CMS Emergency Preparedness requirements going into effect on November 15, 2017, many LTC providers are reviewing and determining whether or not they need to upgrade their generators. We contacted IDPH and they responded that, “In most instances generator projects are reviewable. We request that the facilities send a detailed narrative to the Design and Construction Section email at dph.design.standards@illinois.gov. The narrative needs to include the location of the generator, what they are installing – new, supplemental, what the generator will serve – life safety, heating, cooling, etc. and if they have any residents that require a generator (ventilator). Once that comes in it will be reviewed by staff and determine if a full submission is required.” Don’t hesitate to contact the LSC Section with any questions.