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## **Health Care Facilities Electrical System Definitions** 2002 Edition of NFPA 99, *Standard for Health Care Facilities*

**Essential Electrical System (EES).** A system comprised of alternate sources of power and all connected distribution systems and ancillary equipment, designed to ensure continuity of electrical power to designated areas and functions of a health care facility during disruption of normal power sources, and also to minimize disruption within the internal wiring system.

**Life Safety Branch.** A subsystem of the emergency system consisting of feeders and branch circuits, meeting the requirements of Article 700 of NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*, and intended to provide adequate power needs to ensure safety to patients and personnel, and that is automatically connected to alternate power sources during interruption of the normal power source.

**Critical Branch.** A subsystem of the emergency system consisting of feeders and branch circuits supplying energy to task illumination, special power circuits, and selected receptacles serving areas and functions related to patient care and that are connected to alternate power sources by one or more transfer switches during interruption of normal power source.

**Equipment System.** A system of feeders and branch circuits arranged for delayed, automatic, or manual connection to the alternate power source and that serves primarily 3-phase power equipment.

### **Optional Loads served by the EES**

Par 4.4.1.1.8.3 of Chapter 4, NFPA 99, *Standard for Health Care Facilities*

Optional loads shall be permitted to be served by the essential electrical system generating equipment. Optional loads shall be served by their own transfer means such that these loads shall not be transferred onto the generating equipment if the transfer will overload the generating equipment and shall be shed upon a generating equipment overload. Use of the generating equipment to serve optional loads shall not constitute "other purposes" as described in 4.4.1.1.8.1 and therefore shall not require multiple generator sets.

NOTE: Additional details may be found in Chapter 4 of NFPA 99, *Standard for Health Care Facilities*, and in Article 517 of NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*.