



## **CALIFORNIA SB-969 BATTERY BACKUP FAQs**

As of July 1, 2019, California Bill SB-969 requires all residential garage door operators sold, installed or replaced to be equipped with a battery backup. It also states that reconnections an existing garage door operator without a battery backup to a newly installed door is a violation.

The Californian wildfires of 2017 cut power to many homes, leaving people trapped in their garages. Some people were unable to manually lift their garage door and some lost their lives. SB-969 was enacted in response to the 2017 fires and loss of life.

**Guardian Access & Door Hardware has answers to some FAQs regarding our operators and SB-969.**

**Q: If an opener without a backup battery was purchased before July 1, 2019, can it be installed after July 1, 2019?**

*A: No. CA SB-969 prohibits openers without a BBU from being installed or replaced after July 1, 2019.*

**Q: What are my options if my opener was installed before July 1, 2019, and is still under warranty but needs repair or replacement?**

*A: If the opener does not have a battery backup, warranty will still be honored and parts will be available. If an opener in California must be replaced, it must be equipped with a battery backup. Product support for non-battery backup operators made after July 1, 2019 will not be provided.*

**Q: Can I purchase a garage door opener from a state outside of California and install it?**

*A: No. There would be a penalty associated.*

**Q: In the state of California, what is the penalty for selling or installing garage door opener without battery backup after July 1st 2019?**

*A: The penalty is \$1,000 per opener. Consumers or local officials can initiate enforcement actions. Professional dealers or individuals installing their own openers are subject to the fine.*

**Q: If I have more than one door on my garage, do I have to have a BBU on every door?**

*A: Yes, a battery backup will be needed for the garage door opener on each door.*

**Q: What if I am only replacing my garage door?**

*A: If you are replacing your garage door and have an existing opener; your existing garage door opener must be replaced with a garage door opener with battery backup.*

**Q: Will a battery backup (BBU) be more expensive than one without.**

*A: Yes, it will. Depending on the battery and model chosen, it could add \$50 to \$100 to the operator price.*

**Q: If a new 715 battery backup operator is purchased, will the battery be included in the box?**

*A: Yes, whether it is the 715BBU with Lithium-polymer battery or 715B with a lead-acid battery, the battery will be packed with the motor head.*

**Q: Can the battery be replaced?**

*A: Yes, the battery is very easy to replace.*

**Q: Will any 24V battery work with my operator?**

*A: No. Both the BBU (lithium polymer battery) and STDBAT (lead-acid battery) include internal power and temperature management systems for safety. Also, the battery is a special size and with connectors to fit into the exterior holster.*

**Q: Can a battery backup be added to older Guardian DC operators?**

*A: No. An operator must include connections capabilities specifically for battery backup.*

**Q: What is the average life of a battery?**

*A: Given the same application and environmental conditions, a lithium-polymer battery will average twice the life of a lead-acid battery. Lithium-polymer batteries have an effective life of 4-years and lead-acid 2-years.*

**Q: Will it be legal to use a garage door opener with a dead battery?**

*A: There are visual notifications indicating that it is time to replace the battery. However, it is the user's responsibility to replace a dead battery or one that is low on power.*

**Q: When should I replace my battery?**

*A: On the lithium-polymer battery (BBU), there are 4 LEDs that are status indicators. If there is power to the operator and no LEDs are lit, the battery is out of power and is not charging. Replace the battery. All 4 LEDs flashing indicate a fault condition and the battery must be replaced. For more details consult the owner's manual.*

*With the standard battery, under mains power, after 24-hours of continuous charging, if the red LED continues to glow while charging or neither LED is glowing, replace the battery.*

**Q: How many times will the battery backup open/close my garage door?**

*A: Battery charge & age, ambient temperature, weight & size of the door and time elapsed from full-power charge will affect the number of times the battery can cycle. Tests with a fully charged Li-polymer (BBU) battery, on an 8x7 balanced door at room temperature indicate 120 cycles and with the standard batter (STDBAT) 40 cycles can be reached.*

**Q: Will all garage door opener features work under battery power?**

*A: To save battery power, the courtesy light of the opener will not illuminate. However, the LED lighting in the battery holster will illuminate a dark garage while under battery power.*

**Q: Will the speed of the garage door opener change while under battery power?**

*A: Yes, the opener's speed will be reduced.*

**Q: Can an opener with a battery backup still attached and working be serviced?**

*A: Prior to servicing any opener, any source of power should be disconnected. This includes removing the battery on the opener.*

**Q: Why is the battery back-up feature only available on some select garage door openers?**

*A: Most batteries used in battery backup garage door openers are 12V. A motor that runs on 12V power must be used. AC motors that require 120V to run or operators with 24VDC motors are not candidates.*

**Q: In California, after July 1, 2019, can the beam Smart Control Kit be connected to a garage door opener without a battery backup?**

*A: Yes, but any new opener being installed must have a battery backup.*