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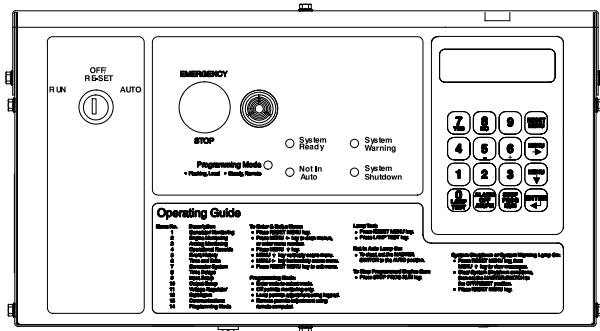
Decision-Maker® 550

Kohler® Decision-Maker® 550 Controller

General Description and Function

The Decision-Maker® 550 generator set controller provides advanced control, system monitoring, and system diagnostics for optimum performance and compatibility with selected engine Electronic Control Modules (ECM).

ECM models only: The Decision-Maker® 550 controller directly communicates with the ECM to monitor engine parameters and diagnose engine problems (see Controller Diagnostics for details).

Standard Features

- A digital display and keypad provide access to data. The display provides complete and understandable information, and the keypad allows easy local access.

- Measurements selectable in metric or English units.

- The controller can communicate directly with a personal computer via a network or via a modem configuration.

- The controller supports Modbus® protocol. Use with serial bus or Ethernet networks. (Ethernet requires an external Modbus®/Ethernet converter module.)

- Integrated voltage regulator providing ±0.25% regulation.

- Built-in alternator thermal overload protection.

- A lockout keyswitch meets appropriate local code requirements.

Optional Features

- Monitor III, an optional menu-driven Windows®-based PC software, monitors engine and alternator parameters and also provides control capability. See G6-76 spec sheet for more information.

- Menu 15 (Protective Relays) is required for optional protective functions and is only available with the Kohler PD-Series switchgear.

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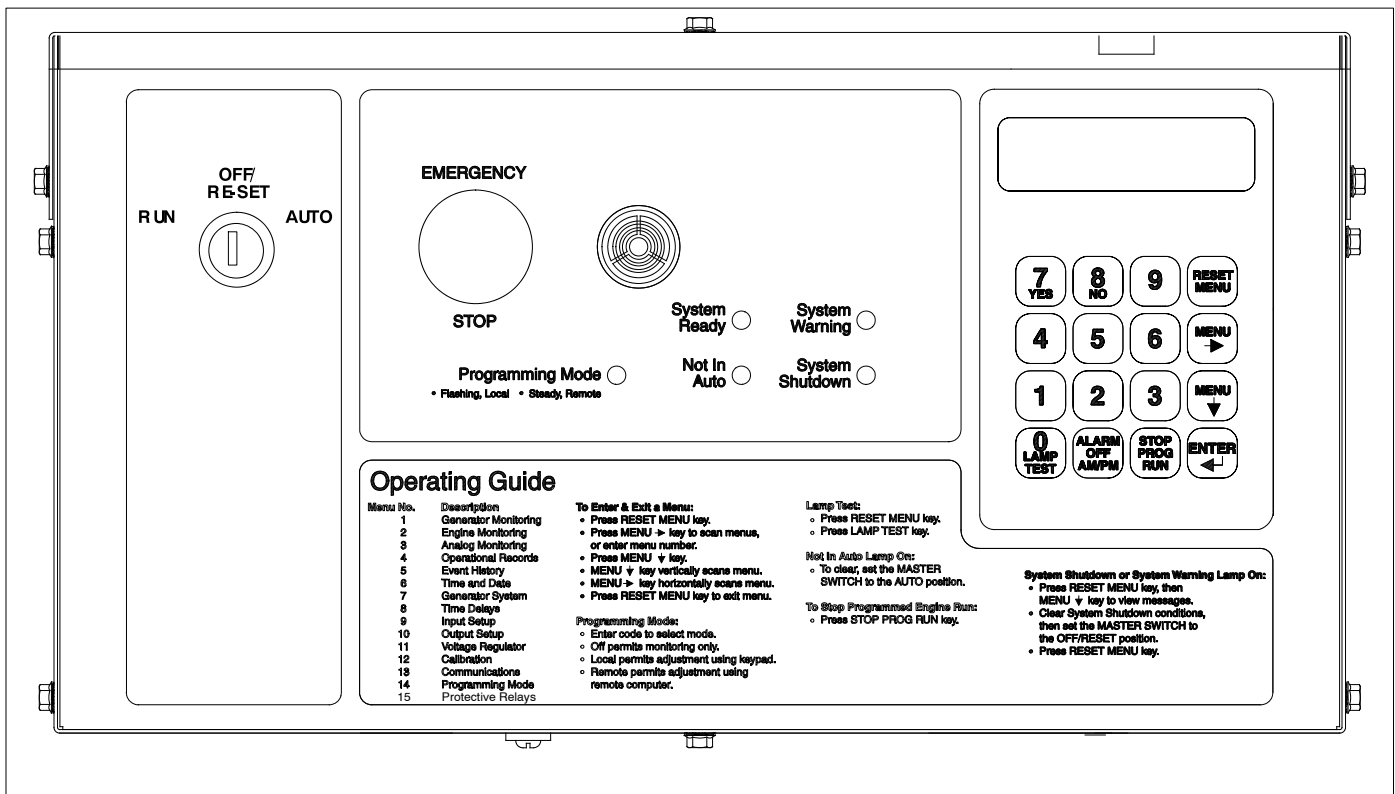
Decision-Maker® 550 Controller

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Controller Features

Decision-Maker® 550—Software Version 2.70 or higher

Specifications

- Power source with circuit protection: 12- or 24-volt DC
- Power drain: 700 milliamps (or 400 milliamps without panel lamps)
- Humidity range: 5% to 95% noncondensing
- Operating temperature range: –40°C to +70°C (–40°F to +158°F)
- Storage temperature range: –40°C to +85°C (–40°F to +185°F)
- Standards:
  - NFPA 99
  - NFPA 110, Level 1
  - CSA 282-09
  - UL 508

Hardware Features

- Vacuum fluorescent display
- Environmentally sealed 16-button membrane keypad
- LED status indicating lights
- Three-position (run, off/reset, auto) keyswitch
- Latch-type emergency stop switch with International Electromechanical Commission (IEC) yellow ring identification
- Alarm horn
- Fuse-protected battery circuits
- Controller mounts locally or remotely up to a distance of 12 m (40 ft.) and viewed from one of four positions
- Dimensions—W x H x D, 460 x 275 x 291 mm (18.15 x 10.8 x 11.47 in.)

NFPA Requirements

In order to meet NFPA 110, Level 1 requirements, the generator set controller monitors the engine/generator functions and faults shown below.

NFPA 110 Common Alarm

- Engine functions:
  - Overcrank
  - Low coolant temperature warning
  - High coolant temperature warning
  - High coolant temperature shutdown
  - Low oil pressure shutdown
  - Low oil pressure warning
  - Overspeed
  - Low fuel (level or pressure) *
  - Low coolant level
  - EPS supplying load
  - High battery voltage *
  - Low battery voltage *
  - Air damper indicator
- General functions:
  - Master switch not in auto
  - Battery charger fault *
  - Lamp test
  - Contacts for local and remote common alarm
  - Audible alarm silence switch
  - Remote emergency stop

* Function requires optional input sensors or kits and is engine dependent, see Controller Displays as Provided by the Engine ECM.

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Controller Functions

The control functions apply to both the ECM and non-ECM equipped models unless noted otherwise.

- **AC Output Voltage Adjustment**
  The voltage adjustment provides keypad adjustment in 0.1 volt increments of the average line-to-line AC output voltage with a maximum adjustment of ±10% of the system voltage.

- **Alternator Protection**
  The controller firmware provides generator set overload and short circuit protection matched to each alternator for the particular voltage/phase configuration.

- **Automatic Restart**
  The controller automatic restart feature initiates the start routine and recrank when the generator set slows to less than 390 rpm after a failed start attempt.

- **Battleswitch (Fault Shutdown Override Switch)**
  The *battleswitch* input provides the ability to override the fault shutdowns except emergency stop and overspeed shutdown in emergency situations and during generator set troubleshooting.

- **Clock and Calendar**
  Real-time clock and calendar functions time stamp shutdowns for local display and remote monitor. Also use these functions to determine the generator set start date and days of operation.

- **Cooldown Temperature Override**
  This feature provides the ability to bypass (override) the cooldown temperature shutdown and force the generator set to run for the full engine cooldown time delay. Also see Time Delay Engine Cooldown (TDEC).

- **Cyclic Cranking**
  The controller has programmable cyclic cranking. The customer selects the number of crank cycles (1–6) and the crank time from 10 to 30 seconds. The crank disconnect depends upon the speed sensor input information or the generator frequency information. The default cyclic crank setting is 15 seconds on, 15 seconds off for three cycles.

- **Digital Voltage Regulator**
  The digital voltage regulator provides ±0.25% no-load to full-load regulation.

- **Display Power Shutdown**
  To conserve battery power, the display turns off after 5 minutes of inactivity. Pressing any keypad button activates the display.

- **ECM Communication**
  The controller monitors ECM communication links and provides fault detection for oil pressure signal loss, coolant temperature signal loss, and ECM communication loss. Each of these faults provides local display, alarm horn ON, and relay driver output (RDO) on ECM models only. See Controller Diagnostics following for additional information.

- **Idle Speed Function**
  Idle speed function provides the ability to start and run the engine at idle speed for a selectable time period. The engine will go to normal speed should the temperature reach warm-up before the time delay is complete.

- **Lamp Test**
  Keypad switch verifies functionality of the indicator LEDs, alarm horn, and digital display.

- **Load Shed**
  The load shed function provides a load control output (RDO) with user-selectable load shed level.

- **Master Switch Fault**
  The generator set master switch has fault detection at four levels: 1) master switch to off, 2) master switch open, 3) master switch error, and 4) master switch not in auto. Each of these faults/warnings provides local display, alarm horn on, and activates a relay driver output (RDO). By placing the master switch to the off/reset position, all generator set faults can be reset.

- **Modbus® Interface**
  The Modbus® interface provides industry standard open protocol for communication between the generator set controller and other devices or for network communications.

- **Number of Starts**
  Total number of generator set successful starts is recorded and displayed on the local display and remote PC monitor. This information is a resettable and total record.

- **Programming Access**
  The setup access and programming information is password protected. When locally accessing programming information, the PM (programming mode) LED flashes. When remotely accessing programming information, the PM LED is steady.

- **Programmed Run**
  The programmed run function provides user-selectable time for a one-time exercising of the generator set. The controller does not provide weekly scheduled exercise periods.

- **Remote Reset**
  The remote reset function resets faults and allows restarting of the generator set without going to the master switch off/reset position. The remote reset function is initiated via the remote reset digital input.

- **Running Time Hourmeter**
  The running time hourmeter function is available on the local display and remote monitor. The information displayed uses real time loaded and unloaded run time as an actual and resettable record.

- **Self-Test**
  The controller has memory protection and a microprocessor self-test.

- **Starting Aid**
  The starting aid feature provides control for an ether injection system. This setup has adjustable *on* time before engine crank from 0 to 10 seconds. This feature is also part of the remote communication option.

- **Time Delay Engine Cooldown (TDEC)**
  The TDEC provides a user-selectable time delay before the generator set shuts down. If the engine is *above* the preset temperature and unit is signalled to shut down, unit will continue to run for the duration of the TDEC. If the engine is *at or below* the preset temperature and unit is signalled to shut down or the TDEC is running, unit will shut down without waiting for the time delay to expire. Also see Cooldown Temperature Override.

- **Time Delay Engine Start (TDES)**
  The TDES provides a user-selectable time delay before the generator set starts.

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Controller Diagnostics

The controller features warnings and shutdowns as text messages on the vacuum fluorescent display. See the table below.

Warnings show yellow LED and signal an impending problem.
Shutdowns show red LED and stop the generator set.

Note: Menu 15 features are available by purchasing the paralleling switchgear option.

Note: The available user inputs are dependent on factory reserved inputs for specific engine types, engine controls, and paralleling applications.

User-Defined Common Fault and Status. The user customizes outputs through a menu of warnings, shutdowns, and status conditions. User defines up to 31 relay driver outputs **(RDOs)** (relays not included).

	Warning Function	Shutdown Function	User-Defined	User RDOs
Engine Protection				
Air damper control, if equipped			X	X
Air damper indicator, if equipped		X	X	X
Coolant temp. signal loss		X	X	X
High battery voltage	X		X	X
High coolant temperature	X	X	X	X
High oil temp. shutdown		X	X	X
Low battery voltage	X		X	X
Low coolant level		X	X	X
Low coolant temperature	X		X	X
Low fuel level (diesel) *	X		X	X
Low fuel pressure (gas) *	X		X	X
Low oil pressure	X	X	X	X
Oil pressure signal loss		X	X	X
Overcrank		X	X	X
Overspeed		X	X	X
Speed sensor fault	X		X	X
Starting aid			X	X
Weak battery	X		X	X
General Protection				
Auxiliary inputs 0–5 VDC—up to 7 analog	X	X	X	X
Auxiliary inputs—up to 21 digital	X	X	X	X
Battery charger fault *	X		X	X
Defined common fault †			X	X
EEPROM write failure		X	X	X
Emergency stop		X	X	X
Engine cooldown delay			X	X
Engine start delay			X	X
EPS supplying load	X		X	X
Internal fault		X	X	X
Load shed kW overload	X		X	X

	Warning Function	Shutdown Function	User-Defined	User RDOs
Load shed underfrequency	X		X	X
Master switch error		X	X	X
Master switch not in auto	X		X	X
Master switch open		X	X	X
Master switch to off		X	X	X
NFPA 110 common alarm			X	X
SCRDO's 1–4 (software controlled RDOs)			X	X
System ready (status)			X	X
Alternator Protection				
AC sensing loss	X	X	X	X
Critical overvoltage		X	X	X
Generator running			X	X
Ground fault *	X		X	X
Locked rotor		X	X	X
AC Protection (includes Menu 15 Enabled Enhancements)				
Alternator protection (short circuit and overload)		X	X	X
Breaker trip			‡	X
Common protective relay output			X	X
In synchronization			‡	X
Loss of field (reverse VAR)		X	X	X
Overcurrent	X	X	X	X
Overfrequency		X	X	X
Overpower		X	X	X
Overvoltage		X	X	X
Reverse power		X	X	X
Underfrequency		X	X	X
Undervoltage		X	X	X

* Function requires optional input sensors or kits and is engine dependent, see Controller Displays as Provided by the Engine ECM.
† Factory default settings for the defined common fault are emergency stop, high coolant temperature shutdown, low oil pressure shutdown, overcrank, and overspeed.
‡ Factory set inputs that are fixed and not user changeable.

Controller Displays as Provided by the Engine ECM (availability subject to change by the engine manufacturer)						
Display	GM/PSI	Doosan	John Deere (JDEC)	Volvo (EMS II)	Volvo (EDC III)	DD/MTU (ADEC)
Ambient temperature		X				
Charge air pressure	X	X		X	X	X
Charge air temperature	X	X	X	X	X	
Coolant level				X	X	X
Coolant pressure				X	X	
Coolant temperature	X	X	X	X	X	X
Crankcase pressure				X	X	
ECM battery voltage	X	X				X
ECM fault codes	X	X	X	X	X	X
ECM serial number						X
Engine model number			X			X
Engine serial number			X			X
Engine speed	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fuel pressure				X	X	
Fuel rate	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fuel temperature			X	X	X	X
Oil level				X		
Oil pressure	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oil temperature				X	X	X
Trip fuel				X	X	X

NOTE: 40–60REOZK (Kohler KDI engines) do not include an ECM as standard equipment. REOZMD/ROZMC (Mitsubishi engines) have an ECM but do not send signals to the generator set controller.

Controller Monitoring
Standard Equipment and Features

- Alarm horn
- Indicators:
  - Not in auto (yellow)
  - Program mode (yellow)
  - System ready (green)
  - System shutdown (red)
  - System warning (yellow)
- Switches and standard features:
  - Keypad, 16-button multi-function sealed membrane
  - Lamp test
  - Keyswitch, auto, off/reset, run (engine start)
  - Switch, emergency stop (normally closed contacts)
- Vacuum fluorescent display with two lines of 20 characters

Displays

Some engine displays are dependent upon enhanced electronic engine control availability.

- Engine monitoring data (metric or English units):
  - Battery voltage
  - Engine model number †
  - Engine serial number †
  - Engine speed
  - Engine start countdown
  - ECM—battery voltage †
  - ECM—fault codes
  - ECM—serial number †
  - Fuel rate
  - Level—coolant †
  - Level—oil †
  - Pressure—crankcase †
  - Pressure—charge air †
  - Pressure—coolant †
  - Pressure—fuel
  - Pressure—oil
  - Rpm
  - Temperature—ambient †
  - Temperature—charge air †
  - Temperature—coolant
  - Temperature—fuel †
  - Temperature—oil †
  - Trip fuel †
- Engine setpoints
  - Coolant—high temperature shutdown and warning setpoints
  - Oil—low pressure shutdown and warning setpoints
  - Temperature—engine cooled down setpoint
  - Temperature—engine warmed up setpoint
- Generator monitoring data:
  - Current (L1, L2, L3), ±0.25% accuracy
  - Frequency, ±0.5% accuracy
  - Kilowatts, total per phase (L1, L2, L3), ±0.5% accuracy
  - KVA, total per phase (L1, L2, L3), ±0.5% accuracy
  - KVAR, total absorbing/generating per phase (L1, L2, L3), ±0.5% accuracy
  - Percent alternator duty level (actual load kW/standby kW rating)
  - Power factor per phase, leading/lagging
  - Voltage (line-to-line, line-to-neutral for all phases), ±0.25% accuracy
- Operational records:
  - Event history (stores up to 100 system events)
  - Last start date
  - Number of starts
  - Number of starts since last maintenance
  - Operating days since last maintenance
  - Operating mode—standby or prime power
  - Run time (total, loaded and unloaded hours, and total kW hours)
  - Run time since maintenance (total, loaded, and unloaded hours and total kW hours)
  - System shutdowns
  - System warnings
  - Time, date, and day of week
- Time delays—general:
  - Crank cycles for on/pause
  - Crank cycles for overcrank shutdown
  - Engine cooldown
  - Engine start
  - Load shed
  - Voltage, over- and under-
  - Starting aid

- Time delays—paralleling relays (PR) for optional switchgear applications:
  - Current—over (PR)
  - Current—over shutdown
  - Frequency—over- and under- (PR and shutdown)
  - Loss of field (PR and shutdown)
  - Loss of field shutdown (PR)
  - Power—over (PR)
  - Power—over shutdown
  - Reverse power (PR)
  - Reverse power shutdown
  - Synch matching—frequency, phase, voltage
  - Voltage—over- and under- (PR and shutdown)
- System parameters:
  - Alternator number
  - Current, rated (based on kW, voltage, connection settings)
  - Frequency
  - Generator set model number
  - Generator set serial number
  - Generator set spec number
  - Rating, kW
  - Phase, single and three (wye or delta)
  - Voltage, AC
  - Voltage configuration, wye or delta

Inputs

- Customer and remote inputs:
  - Analog inputs 0–5 VDC (up to 7 user-defined analog inputs with multiple shutdown and warning levels)
  - Digital contact inputs (up to 21 user-defined digital inputs with shutdown or warning levels)
  - Ground fault detector *
  - Remote emergency stop
  - Remote reset
  - Remote 2-wire start
- Digital inputs (standard):
  - Air damper fault, if equipped
  - Battery charger fault *
  - Battleswitch
  - Emergency stop
  - Field overvoltage (350 kW and higher)
  - High oil temperature
  - Idle mode active (ECM models only) *
  - Low coolant level
  - Low coolant temperature
  - Low fuel warning *
  - Low fuel shutdown *
- Switchgear inputs in Menu 15 (to interface with switchgear system):
  - Circuit breaker closed
  - Enable synch
  - Lockout shutdown
  - Remote reset
  - Remote shutdown
  - VAR/PF mode selection
  - Voltage—raise/lower (or VAR/PF raise/lower in VAR/PF mode)

Outputs

See the Fault Diagnostics section for a breakdown of the available shutdown and warning functions.

- Thirty-one user-defined relay driver outputs (relays not included)
  - Fifteen NFPA 110 faults
  - Defined common faults

Communication

- RS-485 connector for Modbus® RTU communication port
- RS-232 connector for a PC or modem (optional software required)
- SAE J1939 connector for the engine ECM (engine control module)

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* Function requires optional input sensors or kits and is engine dependent; see Controller Displays as Provided by the Engine ECM on page 4.

† See Controller Displays as Provided by the Engine ECM on page 4 for display availability.

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Decision-Maker® 550 Controller Available Options

Communication and PC Software Available Options

Refer to spec sheet G6-76, Monitor III Software for additional communication and PC software information including Modbus® communication.
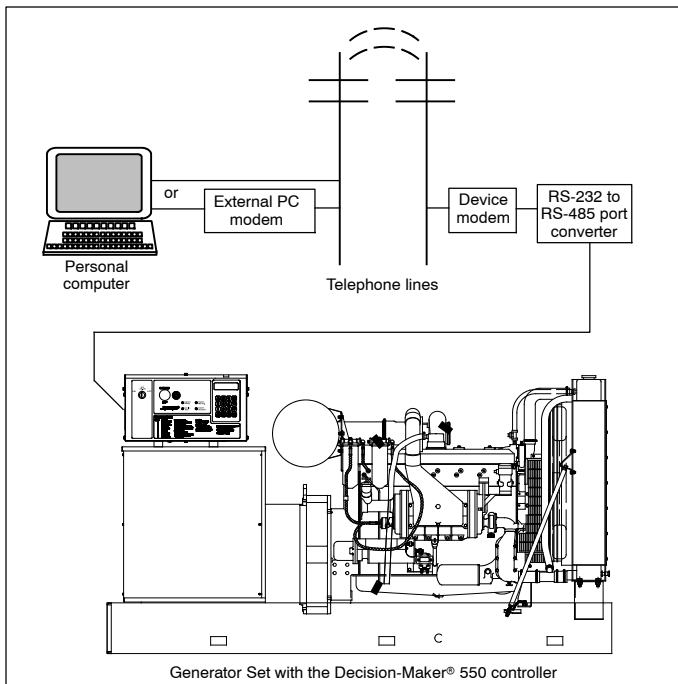
❏ **Local Single Connection.** A PC is connected directly to the device communication module with an RS-232 cable for applications where the PC is within 15 m (50 ft.) of the device or RS-485 cable for applications where the PC is up to 1220 m (4000 ft.) from the device.

❏ **Local Area Network (LAN).** A PC is connected directly to the device's local area network. A LAN is a system of connecting more than one device to a single PC.

❏ **Remote Network (Ethernet):** A PC with a NIC card uses an Ethernet connection to access a remotely located converter (Modbus®/Ethernet) serving a controller. Refer to G6-79 for system details.

❏ **Remote Network (Modem):** A PC uses a modem to connect to a remotely located device modem serving a controller. Monitoring software (Monitor III) runs on the PC to view system operation.

❏ **Monitor III Software for Monitoring and Control (Windows®-based user interface)**

❏ **Converter, Modbus®/Ethernet.** Supports a power system using a controller accessed via the Ethernet. Converter is supplied with an IP address by the site administrator. Refer to G6-79 for converter details.

❏ **RS-232 to RS-485 Port Converters**

Other Available Options

❏ **Common Failure Relay** remotely signals auxiliary fault, emergency stop, high engine temperature, low oil pressure, overcrank, and overspeed via one single-pole, double-throw relay with 10-amp contacts at 120 VAC or 28 VDC maximum.

❏ **Run Relay** provides a three-pole, double-throw relay with 10-amp contacts at 120 VAC or 28 VDC maximum for indicating that the generator set is running.

❏ **Controller Cable** enables remote mounting of the controller with distances of up to 12 m (40 ft.) from the generator set.

❏ **Controller Connection Kit** provides a cable connecting the controller output terminals to a terminal strip in the junction box.

❏ **Dry Contact Kit** interfaces between the controller signals and customer-supplied accessories providing contact closure to activate warning devices such as lamps or horns. Kits are available with either one or ten single-pole, double-throw (form-C) relays with 10-amp contacts at 120 VAC or 28 VDC maximum.

❏ **Float/Equalize Battery Charger with Alarm Feature** signals controller of battery charger fault.

❏ **Prealarm Kit for NFPA 110 (gas fuel models only)** warns the operator of low fuel pressure. Select the kit based on LP vapor or natural gas, combination dual fuel, or LP liquid withdrawal.

❏ **Prime Power Switch** prevents battery drain during generator set non-operation periods and when the generator set battery cannot be maintained by an AC battery charger.

❏ **Remote Audiovisual Alarm Panel** warns the operator of fault shutdowns and warning conditions. Kit includes common fault lamp and horn with silence switch.

❏ **Remote Emergency Stop Panel** immediately shuts the generator set down from a remote station.

❏ **Remote Serial Annunciator (RSA) Panel** enables the operator to monitor the status of the generator set from a remote location, which may be required for NFPA 99 and NFPA 110 installations. Uses Modbus® protocol, an industry standard.

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Generator Set with the Decision-Maker® 550 controller

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