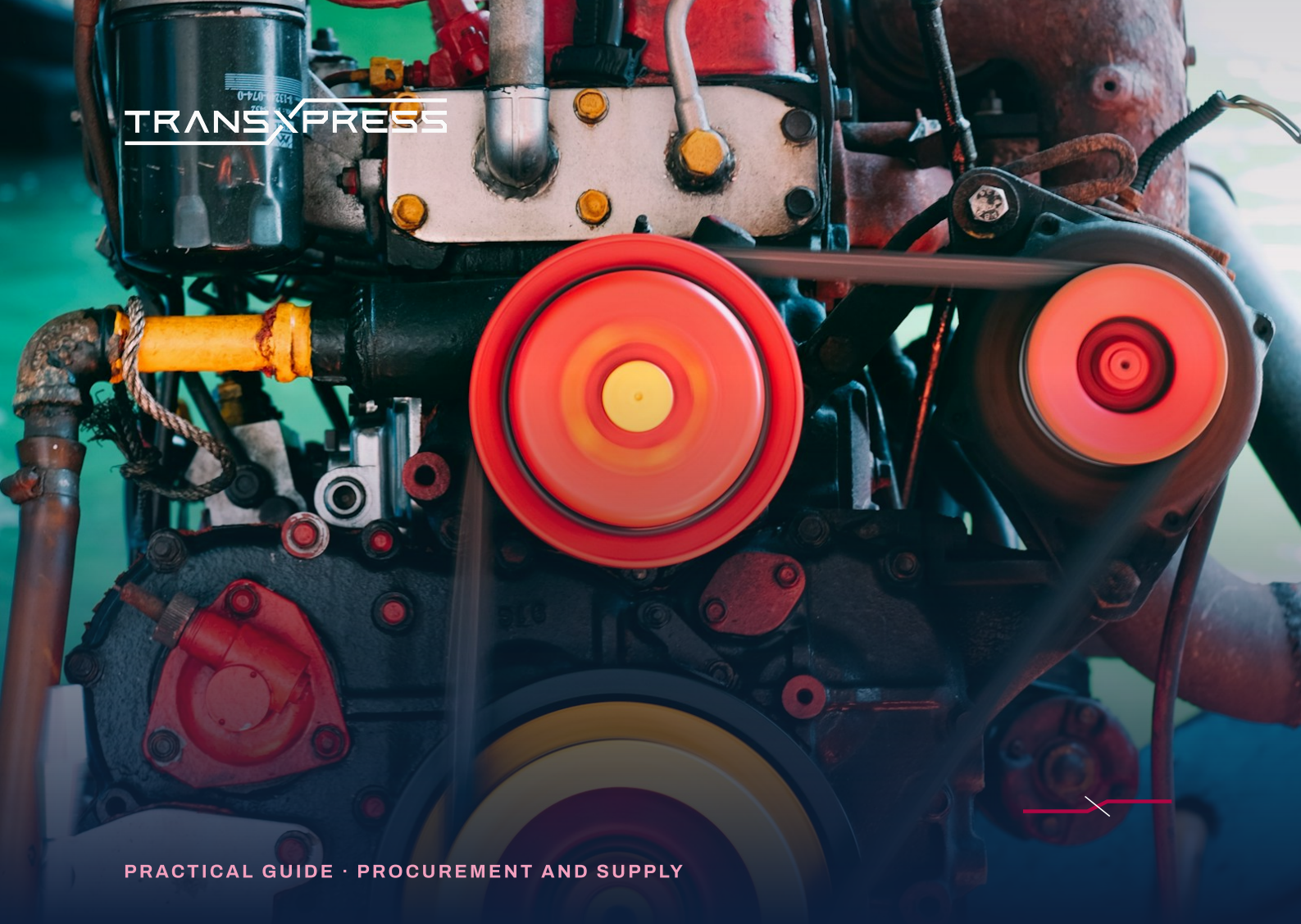


PRACTICAL GUIDE · PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

Choosing and importing a generator set for a site in Guinea

On a construction site, a mine or a remote camp off the grid, the generator set is often the only source of power. A set that is badly sized or unsuited to the climate fails at the worst moment, and one missing part can keep it down for a long time. Here are the points to settle before ordering, then the steps to import it and install it in Guinea.

CONTENTS

01 How do you choose a generator set for a site in Guinea?
02 Power: start from the real load
03 Standby, prime or continuous: the notion that changes everything
04 Heat, dust, fuel: matching the set to the site
05 Parts, maintenance and service: negotiate before buying
06 Importing the set: classification, duties, transport and installation
07 What we do for you

01 How do you choose a generator set for a site in Guinea?

Choose the set from three things: the real load to supply (including motor starting peaks), the duty rating (standby, prime or continuous) and the site conditions (heat, dust, fuel quality, access to service). Only then compare brands and prices. On import, the set is declared under heading 85.02 of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET), which under the official tariff is in the 5% customs duty band, with 18% VAT.

- List the equipment to be powered and how it actually runs during the day.
- State whether the set backs up a grid or is the site's main source of power.
- Describe the site: temperature, dust, humidity, altitude, access for fuel trucks.
- Require a spare parts list and a maintenance plan in the offer.

02 Power: start from the real load

The right starting point is a load assessment: each consumer, its power, its power factor and the share of time it runs. Manufacturers state apparent power in kVA and active power in kW; the difference depends on the power factor of your equipment. Always compare offers in the same unit.

- Electric motors (pumps, compressors, crushers, ventilation) draw a starting current far above their rated current. The set and its alternator must absorb these peaks without an excessive voltage drop.
- A soft starter or a variable speed drive on large motors reduces the size of set required.

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL · Protected document, no reproduction without written permission

- An oversized set that runs for long periods at low load fouls up and burns fuel poorly. For a highly variable load, several sets running in parallel are often more flexible than one large machine.
- Parallel operation also gives redundancy: servicing one set does not stop the site.

03 Standby, prime or continuous: the notion that changes everything

The same set carries several power ratings depending on the duty defined by the industry's international standards. Standby power covers limited use during grid outages. Prime power covers a set that is the site's source of energy, with a variable load. Continuous power covers a constant load with no time limit. On a remote site, the set almost always runs in prime or continuous duty.

> State the expected duty in your request for quotation. An offer that only highlights standby power can look cheaper for a machine that will in fact be undersized in prime duty.

04 Heat, dust, fuel: matching the set to the site

- Temperature: available power falls as ambient temperature and altitude rise. Ask for the manufacturer's derating curve and a radiator sized for a tropical climate.
- Dust: in the dry season and during the harmattan, provide heavy-duty air filters and pre-filters, and a canopy that protects without restricting cooling.
- Humidity: in the rainy season, an anti-condensation heater in the alternator and sealed electrical cabinets limit failures.
- Fuel: diesel quality varies. A water separator and extra filtration protect the injectors. Size the day tank to the site's refuelling frequency.
- Canopied, open or containerised: a canopied, soundproofed set suits camps; a containerised set protects the machine well and is easy to move; an open set belongs in a suitable plant room.
- Electrical installation: earthing, lightning protection and a transfer switch (manual or automatic) are part of the order.

05 Parts, maintenance and service: negotiate before buying

A set stopped for want of a filter or a belt costs more than the parts themselves. Before signing, check who will provide service in Guinea and how parts will arrive.

- A first-fit kit: oil, fuel and air filters, belts, gaskets, for the first services.
- A recommended parts list for extended operation on a remote site, with the manufacturer's part numbers.

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL · Protected document, no reproduction without written permission

- Operation and maintenance manuals and wiring diagrams, in French or English.
- A service network for the engine and alternator brands in the region.
- Warranty terms: many manufacturers require commissioning by an approved technician and an up-to-date maintenance log.
- A standard controller and, where possible, remote monitoring to track hours, alarms and consumption.

06 Importing the set: classification, duties, transport and installation

Generator sets are classified under heading 85.02 of the CET. The subheading depends on the engine type (diesel, petrol, gas, other) and the power. Under the official tariff, these lines are in the 5% customs duty band and bear 18% VAT, on top of the levies set by the tariff. The basis is the customs value, usually the CIF value; the amount payable is the customs assessment.

- Documents: detailed commercial invoice, packing list with weights and dimensions, bill of lading (B/L) or air waybill, certificate of origin, technical data sheet showing the power and the serial numbers of the engine and alternator.
- If your project benefits from a special regime (agreement, exemption, temporary admission), the document granting it must be ready before arrival; otherwise the standard regime applies.
- Small and medium sets travel in containers; large sets often ship on flat racks or as break bulk. Check the lifting points and lashing specified by the manufacturer.
- On site: a prepared slab or plinth, access for the truck and crane, a ventilated location away from the accommodation, cabling ready. Commissioning is carried out by the supplier's technician or a qualified installer.

07 What we do for you

TransXpress consults suppliers on the basis of your load assessment, buys the set and its parts, arranges shipping, clears it in Conakry and delivers it to your site; generator rental is also available through our partners. Send us the list of equipment to power, the duty rating and the site location.

? Frequently asked questions

Should generator sets be compared in kVA or kW?

Compare offers in the same unit and at the same duty rating. kVA measures apparent power, kW active power; the ratio between them depends on the power factor of your equipment.

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL · Protected document, no reproduction without written permission

What is the customs duty on a generator set in Guinea?

Under the official tariff (ECOWAS CET), generator sets under heading 85.02 are in the 5% customs duty band, with 18% VAT and the levies set by the tariff. The exact amount is the customs assessment.

Is one large set or several sets in parallel better?

For a variable load or a site that cannot stop, several sets in parallel are often more flexible and allow servicing without an outage. The choice depends on the load assessment.

General information guide written by TransXpress. Customs rules and procedures change: every file is checked against the documents and the regulations in force. This guide is neither a quotation nor a commitment.

TRANSXPRESS

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL · Protected document, no reproduction without written permission

TRANSXPRESS

ONE POINT OF CONTACT, FROM THE PORT TO YOUR SITE

Procurement, freight forwarding and customs, heavy transport and equipment rental in Guinea.

TransXpress supports mining, industrial and construction operators in Guinea and on the corridors to Mali and Sierra Leone. A name, a number and a few words are enough: we call you back within 24 business hours.

QUOTE

transxpress.co/#devis

WHATSAPP

+224 610 36 36 52

EMAIL

info@transxpress.co

OFFICE

Résidence Micheline, Camayenne, Dixinn, Conakry

© 2026 TRANSXPRESS SARL, RCCM GN.TCC.2022.B.01359. All rights reserved. This document is protected by copyright: any reproduction, distribution or adaptation, in whole or in part, without the written permission of TRANSXPRESS SARL is prohibited. Online version: transxpress.co/en/guides/choisir-importer-groupe-electrogene-guinee/