

Solar Energy South Africa

Safety Standard Requirements for Photovoltaic Panels



Overview

Any PV system must comply with Health and Safety Requirements, BS 7671, and other relevant standards and Codes of Practice. Much of the content of this guide is drawn from such requirements. What are the IEC standards for photovoltaic systems?

The IEC also manages global conformity assessment systems that certify whether equipment, systems, or components conform to its international standards. In 2016 and 2020, IEC published two key associated standards: BS EN IEC 62446-1:2016 Photovoltaic (PV) systems – Requirements for testing, documentation and maintenance.

Are PV panels a fire risk?

Which is in line with findings by Kristensen and Jomaas (2018). KEY TAKEAWAYS: The fire risk with PV panels on roofs is larger than without panels. Assessing the fire safety of a PV installation must be done on the system level because individual elements do not necessarily present the risk comprehensively. However, the true risk emerges.

What are the requirements for a PV installation?

Virtually all domestic PV installations will fall under the scope of Part P. Part P requires the relevant Building Control department to be notified and approve the work. There are two routes to comply with the requirements of Part P: Notify the relevant Building Control department before starting the work.

How to minimise fire risk from solar PV systems?

The solar industry welcomes clarity on how to minimise fire risk from solar PV systems, which in absolute terms is extremely low. “The core way to mitigate any risk is to ensure the highest possible quality in the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of solar systems.

What are the international PV standards?

For international PV standards, IEC 61215 and IEC 61730 are the PV standards used in most countries globally, while the USA and Canada comply with UL1703. Regarding international standards, the fire safety requirements of BIPV must comply with national and local building regulations.

Are there any UK standards relating to a PV installation?

While many UK standards apply in general terms, at the time of writing there is still relatively little which specifically relates to a PV installation. However, there are two documents which specifically relate to the installation of these systems that are of particular relevance:

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RC62: Recommendations for fire safety with PV panel ...

for fire safety with PV panel . installations. As such, the standards for solar PV are a core part of the MCS remit - helping to define what safe, competent, and high-quality solar installation ...

IEC certifications: IEC 61215, IEC 61646 and more ...

Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification, which was later issued as the European standard EN 61730 (almost similar). The IEC / EN 61730 consists of 2 parts: the first part covers all the requirements for construction ...



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