

PERMIT PROCESS GUIDELINES FOR SMALL-SCALE PV SYSTEMS

STANDARD STRING SYSTEM, MICRO-INVERTER, SUPPLY-SIDE CONNECTION, AC MODULE

The information in this guideline is intended to help local jurisdictions and contractors identify when PV system installations are simple, needing only a basic review, and when an installation is more complex. It is likely that 50%-75% of all residential systems will comply with these simple criteria.

Required Information for Permit:

1. Complete building permit application and Contractor's Registration.
2. Site plan showing location of major components on the property. This drawing need not be exactly to scale, but it should represent relative location of components at site (see supplied example site plan). PV arrays on dwellings with a 3' perimeter space at ridge and sides may not need separate fire service review.
3. Electrical diagram showing PV array configuration, wiring system, overcurrent protection, inverter, disconnects, required signs, and ac connection to building (see supplied standard electrical diagram).
4. Specification sheets and installation manuals (if available) for all manufactured components including, but not limited to, PV modules, inverter(s), combiner box, disconnects, and mounting system.

Step 1: Structural Review of PV Array Mounting System

Is the array to be mounted on a defined, permitted roof structure? Yes No

If No due to non-compliant roof or a ground mount, submit completed worksheet for the structure WKS1.

Roof Information:

1. Is the roofing type lightweight (Yes = composition, lightweight masonry, metal, etc...) _____

If No, submit completed worksheet for roof structure WKS1 (No = heavy masonry, slate, etc...).

2. Does the roof have a single roof covering? Yes No

If No, submit completed worksheet for roof structure WKS1.

3. Provide method and type of weatherproofing roof penetrations (e.g. flashing, caulk). _____

Mounting System Information:

1. Is the mounting structure an engineered product designed to mount PV modules with no more than an 18" gap beneath the module frames? Yes No

If No, provide details of structural attachment certified by a design professional.

2. For manufactured mounting systems, fill out information on the mounting system below:

- a. Mounting System Manufacturer _____ Product Name Model# _____
- b. Total Weight of PV Modules and Rails _____ lbs
- c. Total Number of Attachment Points _____
- d. Weight per Attachment Point ($b \div c$) _____ lbs (if greater than 45 lbs, see WKS1)
- e. Maximum Spacing Between Attachment Points on a Rail _____ inches (see product manual for maximum spacing allowed based on maximum design wind speed)
- f. Total Surface Area of PV Modules (square feet) _____ ft²
- g. Distributed Weight of PV Module on Roof ($b \div f$) _____ lbs/ft²

If distributed weight of the PV system is greater than 5 lbs/ft², see WKS1.

Step 2: Electrical Review of PV System (Calculations for Electrical Diagram)

In order for a PV system to meet the basic review requirements, the following must apply:

1. PV modules, utility-interactive inverters, and combiner boxes are identified for use in PV systems.
2. The PV array is composed of 4 series strings or less per inverter.
3. The total inverter capacity has a continuous ac power output 13,440 Watts or less
4. The ac interconnection point is on the load side of service disconnecting means (690.64(B)).
5. One of the standard electrical diagrams can be used to accurately represent the PV system. Interactive PDF diagrams are available at www.solarabcs.org/permitting.

Fill out the standard electrical diagram completely. A guide to the electrical diagram is provided to help the applicant understand each blank to fill in. If the electrical system is more complex than the standard electrical diagram can effectively communicate, provide an alternative diagram with appropriate detail.

STRUCTURE WORKSHEET - WKS1



If array is roof mounted

This section is for evaluating roof structural members that are site built. This includes rafter systems and site built trusses. Manufactured truss and roof joist systems, when installed with proper spacing, meet the roof structure requirements covered in item 2 below.

1. Roof construction: **Rafters** **Trusses** **Other**:

2. Describe site-built rafter or or site-built truss system.

- a. Rafter Size: ___ x ___ inches
- b. Rafter Spacing: _____ inches
- c. Maximum unsupported span: _____ feet, _____ inches
- d. Are the rafters over-spanned? (see the IRC span tables in **B.2.**) **Yes** **No**
- e. If **Yes**, complete the rest of this section.

3. If the roof system has

- a. over-spanned rafters or trusses,
- b. the array over 5 lbs/ft² on any roof construction, or
- c. the attachments with a dead load exceeding 45 lbs per attachment;

it is recommended that you provide one of the following:

- i. A framing plan that shows details for how you will strengthen the rafters using the supplied span tables in B.2.
- ii. Confirmation certified by a design professional that the roof structure will support the array.

If array is ground mounted:

1. Show array supports, framing members, and foundation posts and footings.
2. Provide information on mounting structure(s) construction. If the mounting structure is unfamiliar to the local jurisdiction and is more than six (6) feet above grade, it may require engineering calculations certified by a design professional.
3. Show detail on module attachment method to mounting structure.

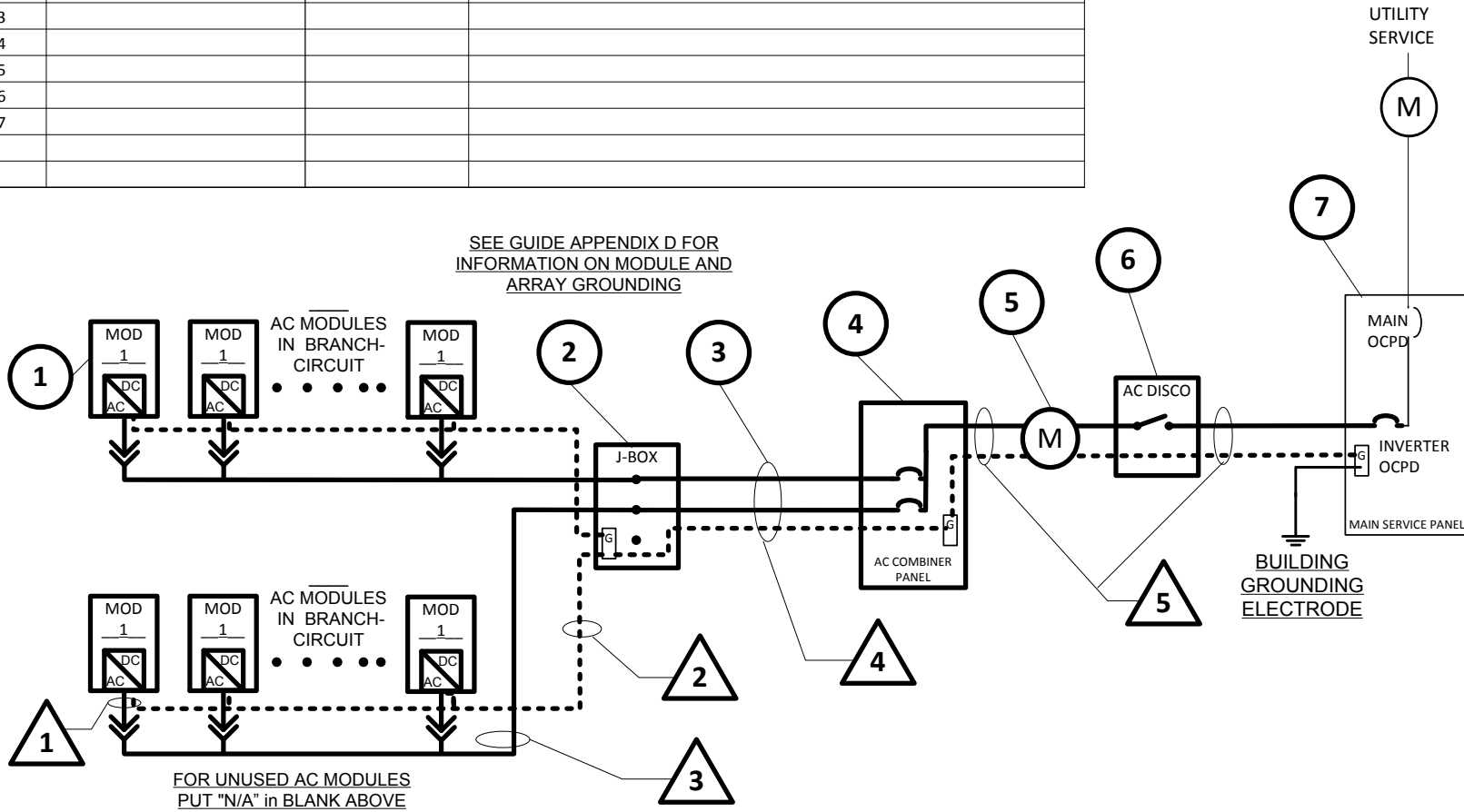
STANDARD SITE PLAN

Contractor Name, Address and Phone:	Site Plan for Small-Scale, Single-Phase PV Systems			
	Site Name: Site Address: System AC Size:			
Drawn By:	SIZE	FSCM NO	DWG NO	REV
Checked By:	SCALE	NTS	Date:	SHEET

AC MODULE ELECTRICAL DIAGRAM

EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE			
TAG	DESCRIPTION	PART NUMBER	NOTES
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

SEE GUIDE APPENDIX D FOR
INFORMATION ON MODULE AND
ARRAY GROUNDING



CONDUIT AND CONDUCTOR SCHEDULE					
TAG	DESCRIPTION OR CONDUCTOR TYPE	COND. GAUGE	NUMBER OF CONDUCTORS	CONDUIT TYPE	CONDUIT SIZE
1	USE-2 <input type="checkbox"/> or PV WIRE <input type="checkbox"/>	MFG	MFG Cable	N/A	N/A
2	GEC <input type="checkbox"/> EGC <input type="checkbox"/> X ALL THAT APPLY			N/A	N/A
3	EXTERIOR CABLE LISTED W/ INV.	MFG	MFG Cable	N/A	N/A
4	THWN-2 <input type="checkbox"/> or XHHW-2 <input type="checkbox"/> or RHW-2 <input type="checkbox"/>				
	GEC <input type="checkbox"/> EGC <input type="checkbox"/> X ALL THAT APPLY				
	NO DC GEC IF 690.35 SYSTEM				
5	THWN-2 <input type="checkbox"/> or XHHW-2 <input type="checkbox"/> or RHW-2 <input type="checkbox"/>				
	GEC <input type="checkbox"/> EGC <input type="checkbox"/> X ALL THAT APPLY				

Contractor Name, Address and Phone:	One-Line Standard Electrical Diagram for AC Module PV Systems		
	Site Name: Site Address: System AC Size:		
Drawn By:	SIZE	FSCM NO	DWG NO
Checked By:	SCALE	NTS	Date: SHEET

NOTES FOR AC MODULE ELECTRICAL DIAGRAM

NOTES FOR ALL DRAWINGS:

OCPD = OVERCURRENT PROTECTION DEVICE

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE® REFERENCES SHOWN AS (NEC XXX.XX)

AC MODULE RATINGS (Guide Appendix C)

AC MODULE MAKE	
AC MODULE MODEL	
NOMINAL OPERATING AC VOLTAGE	
NOMINAL OPERATING AC FREQUENCY	
MAXIMUM AC POWER	
MAXIMUM AC CURRENT	
MAXIMUM OCPD RATING	

SIGNS—SEE GUIDE SECTION 7

SIGN FOR DC DISCONNECT

N/A since no dc wiring

SIGN FOR INVERTER OCPD AND AC DISCONNECT (IF USED)

**SOLAR PV SYSTEM
AC POINT OF CONNECTION**

AC OUTPUT CURRENT	
NOMINAL AC VOLTAGE	

THIS PANEL FED BY MULTIPLE SOURCES (UTILITY AND SOLAR)

NOTES FOR ARRAY CIRCUIT WIRING (Guide Section 6 and 8 and Appendix F):

- 1.) LOWEST EXPECT AMBIENT TEMPERATURE BASED ON ASHRAE MINIMUM MEAN EXTREME DRY BULB TEMPERATURE FOR ASHRAE LOCATION MOST SIMILAR TO INSTALLATION LOCATION. LOWEST EXPECTED AMBIENT TEMP ____°C
- 2.) HIGHEST CONTINUOUS AMBIENT TEMPERATURE BASED ON ASHRAE HIGHEST MONTH 2% DRY BULB TEMPERATURE FOR ASHRAE LOCATION MOST SIMILAR TO INSTALLATION LOCATION. HIGHEST CONTINUOUS TEMPERATURE ____°C
- 2.) 2009 ASHRAE FUNDAMENTALS 2% DESIGN TEMPERATURES DO NOT EXCEED 47°C IN THE UNITED STATES (PALM SPRINGS, CA IS 44.1°C). FOR 6 OR LESS CURRENT-CARRYING CONDUCTORS IN ROOF-MOUNTED SUNLIT CONDUIT AT LEAST 0.5" ABOVE ROOF AND USING THE OUTDOOR DESIGN TEMPERATURE OF 47°C OR LESS (ALL OF UNITED STATES),
 - a) 12 AWG, 90°C CONDUCTORS ARE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE FOR AC MODULES INVERTER OUTPUT CIRCUITS WITH 12 AMPS OR LESS WHEN PROTECTED BY A 15-AMP OR SMALLER OCPD.
 - b) 10 AWG, 90°C CONDUCTORS ARE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE FOR AC MODULES INVERTER OUTPUT CIRCUITS WITH 16 AMPS OR LESS WHEN PROTECTED BY A 20-AMP OR SMALLER OCPD.

NOTES FOR INVERTER CIRCUITS (Guide Section 8 and 9):

- 1) IF UTILITY REQUIRES A VISIBLE-BREAK SWITCH, DOES THIS SWITCH MEET THE REQUIREMENT? YES NO N/A
- 2) IF GENERATION METER REQUIRED, DOES THIS METER SOCKET MEET THE REQUIREMENT? YES NO N/A
- 3) SIZE PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SOURCE (DC) CONDUCTORS BASED ON MAX CURRENT ON NEC 690.53 SIGN OR OCPD RATING AT DISCONNECT (N/A)
- 4) SIZE INVERTER OUTPUT CIRCUIT (AC) CONDUCTORS ACCORDING TO INVERTER OCPD AMPERE RATING. (See Guide Section 9)
- 5) TOTAL OF _____ INVERTER OUTPUT CIRCUIT OCPD(S), ONE FOR EACH AC MODULE CIRCUIT. DOES TOTAL SUPPLY BREAKERS COMPLY WITH 120% BUSBAR EXCEPTION IN 690.64(B)(2)(a)? YES NO

Contractor Name, Address and Phone:	Notes for One-Line Standard Electrical Diagram for Single-Phase PV Systems			
	Site Name:			
	Site Address:			
	System AC Size:			
Drawn By: Bill	SIZE	FSCM NO	DWG NO	REV
Checked By: Ted	SCALE	NTS	Date:	SHEET