Clean Energy Council

GRID-CONNECTED PV SYSTEMS (No Battery Storage) Installation, Testing and Commissioning Checklist

for Accredited Installers and Supervisors



INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

PV ARRAY

PV Array tilt

Mounted flat on roof Building integrated Mounted on tilted array frame

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PV Array orientation

PV Array is securely fixed and installed

in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations Any timber used is suitable for external use or is properly sealed

No dissimilar metals are in contact

with the array frames or supports Roof penetrations are suitably

sealed and weatherproofed

PV wiring losses are less than 1% at the maximum current output of the array

Where PV array comprises multiple strings

- string protection has been provided AS/NZS 5033

Wiring is protected from UV and

mechanical damage

Weatherproof isolator (where required by local electricity distributor) is mounted immediately adjacent to the PV array

INVERTER

Double pole DC isolator [or DC circuit breaker] is mounted close to input of the inverter

(rating.A)

If d.c. isolator is of the polarised type then it is correctly connected to ensure operation under full load Isolator is mounted on output of the inverter (can be part of inverter) Lockable AC circuit breaker mounted within the

switchboard to act as the main switch for the PV / inverter system. (rating A) Inverter is inside building or in weatherproof enclosure with adequate space and ventilation

LV DC CABLING is clearly identified – LV DC or similar at least every 3 metres

SIGNAGE	(White on Red)
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AS 4777.1 & Appendix A

is permanently fixed on the switchboard.

is permanently fixed at the main switch



is permanently fixed at the main solar switch

If the solar system is connected to a distribution board then the following sign is located on main switchboard and all intermediate distribution boards

WARNING			
DUAL SUPPLY ISOLATE			
SOLAR SUPPLY AT			
DISTRIBUTION BOARD DB???			

Where the inverter is not adjacent to the main switchboard, location information is provided

Warning and Advisory Signs AS/NZS 5033 & Appendix G

SOLAR DC

is permanently fixed on array junction boxes (Black on White)

SOLAR ARRAY ON ROOF	
Open circuit voltage: 220 V Short circuit current: 20 A	

Fire Emergency information is permanently fixed on the main switchboard

(White on Red)

Shutdown procedure is permanently fixed at inverter and/or on main switchboard

Any other signage as required by the local Electricity Distributor

230-240 VOLT (LV) INSTALLATION

- All low voltage wiring has been installed by a licensed electrical tradesperson
- All wiring has been tested and approved by a qualified electrical tradesperson

This checklist is based on the Clean Energy Council's GC Design and Installation Guidelines. The Guidelines demonstrate the latest industry "best practice" and are to be read in conjunction with the relevant Australian Standards.

AUTHORISATIO following system ha	V : I, is been installed to the standard indicated by	C these gu	EC A	ccreditat	ion number verify that the mplies with all applicable Australian Standards
Name of the perso	on for whom the system was installed				
Location of syster	η				
signed	Da	te :	/	/	Attach a separate sheet detailing any departures

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TESTING and COMMISSIONING

PV ARRAY-d.c.

NOTE : where there is only 1 string and no array junction box, then the following tests will be conducted between the string and the PV array isolator at the inverter.

Isolate PV string and array wiring CHECK that there is no voltage on input OR output sides of any array junction box (where installed)

CHECK

Continuity between strings and array junction box

String 1 +ve String 1 -ve String 2 +ve String 2 -ve String 3 +ve String 3 -ve

Continuity between array junction box and PV array isolator

CHECK

Polarity of PV string and array wiring

String 1 String 2 String 3

.....

- Array +ve
- Array -ve

Polarity of wiring between array junction box and PV array isolator

WARNING:

IF POLARITY OF ONE STRING IS REVERSED, THIS CAN CAUSE A FIRE IN THE ARRAY JUNCTION BOX.

RECORD PV string		
open circuit Voltage	String 1	V
	String 2	V
	String 3	V

WARNING:

The following procedures describe how to measure short circuit currents - the voltages can be very high and if the procedures are not followed then arcing and damage to components could occur.

Note: Some projects require that short circuit currents are recorded as part of the contractual commissioning; otherwise a record of the actual operating current of each string is sufficient. This could be done by using the meter on the inverter or by using a clamp meter when the system is operational.



1. Where short circuit currents are required undertake the following steps to measure the short circuit current safely as shown in Figure 3:

Ensure each string fuse (where required) is not connected or that LV array is disconnected in the middle of the string as shown in Figure 1 of these guidelines.

2. Leave solar array cable

connected to the PV array isolator. 3. Remove the cable from the PV Array isolator to the

inverter.

4. With the PV array isolator off - put a link or small cable between the positive and negative outputs of the PV array isolator.

5. Install the string fuse for string 1 or connect the ELV seaments to complete the wiring of the string. Turn on PV array isolator - using a d.c. clamp meter measure the DC short circuit current for String 1. Turn off PV array isolator. Disconnect string fuse for string 1 or remove links to break string into ELV segments.

6. Repeat point 5 for each string

After each string has been individually measured – ensure PV array isolator is off- then install all string fuses or connect the ELV segments of each string. Turn on PV array isolator and measure d.c. Array current using clamp meter. Turn off switch and remove link in output of PV array isolator.

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Where short circuit currents are **not** required then record the operating current/s after Start-Up of System. RECORD

Short circuit Currents (where required)	String 1	A
,	String 2	Α

String 3	 A
String 4	 A
Array	 4

Irradiance at time of recording the currentW/m²

With the PV array isolator **OFF** CHECK continuity between PV array isolator and inverter

Array +ve

Array -ve

CHECK polarity

between the PV array isolator and inverter

RECORD Open circuit voltage at input side of the PV array isolatorV

WARNING: If polarity is reversed at the inverter damage may occur which is generally not covered under warranty

INVERTER - a.c.

Ensure that the a.c. normal supply is isolated and the main switch Solar supply is OFF CHECK continuity

between Inverter & main switch Solar supply

Line

Neutral

CHECK continuity between main switch Solar supply & kWh meter

Line

Neutral

CHECK polarity

at the Inverter and the main switch Solar supply

CHECK polarity at the output

of main switch Solar supply from the kWh meter Initial

reading of kWh meter

Accredited Installer Name	
Signed	Date
Licensed Electrician Name	
Signed	Date

Start-Up of System

Refer to system manual for the inverter and follow start-up procedure.

This generally involves turning on the PV DC main switch followed by the Solar AC main switch but the procedures as recommended by the inverter manufacturer must be followed.

System connects to grid [after 60 seconds] When the AC main switch is turned ON - follow the inverter start-up procedure -

Voltage at d.c. input of inverter	V
Voltage is within operating limits of	of inverter
Voltage at a.c. output of inverter	V
Input power of the inverter (where available) Output power of the inverter	W
Output power as expected	

Turn AC main switch OFF

System immediately disconnects from grid

PV operating current

- 1. Where there's only one string in the array record the operating current after Start-Up of System.
- 2. If more than one string turn off the inverter, the a.c. main switch and d.c. main switch. Isolate all strings.
- 3. With one string connected at a time turn system back on and record the operating current of that string.

Repeat 2 and 3 above

until all string currents have been recorded.

NOTE: Unless you have a solar irradiance meter then any string current tests should be performed on a bright sunny day with no cloud. This is to avoid varied readings due to cloud cover.

RECORD

operating currents :	String 1	A
	String 2	A
	String 3	A
	String 4	A
	Array	A