Bulletin

Certification requirements for installing Photo Voltaic (PV) Panels on buildings

This is a general guide to the building certification requirements in the Northern Territory for the installation of Solar Photo Voltaic arrays on buildings valid as at February 2017.

Prior to installing solar PV panels on buildings, installers should ensure they obtain confirmation of the classification of that building, either from the property owner or agents acting on behalf of the property owner. It is not the role of the installer to determine the classification of a building.

Please note: This is an extract for guidance only and should not be relied on as an exhaustive coverage of the requirements. Refer to the appropriate documents for detail.

Certification of solar PV panels in building control areas

In declared Building Control Areas of the Northern Territory, all building works, including installation of solar PV panels, must comply with the Building Act and Regulations. This includes certification of building works and compliance with applicable construction codes and standards. Exemptions may apply and are discussed below.

Cyclonic regions (wind region C)

Installation of solar PV panels in Cyclonic regions (region C) requires certification; there are no exemptions to this requirement. The NT Deemed to Comply Manual (DTCM) contains approved PV panels support frames and fixings to metal clad roof for use by the building industry in cyclonic regions.

Non-cyclonic regions (wind regions A and B)

All components, including PV panels support frames and fixings to metal clad roof must be approved by the Clean Energy Council

In Non-Cyclonic wind regions (regions A and B) building permit exemptions may be gained if the requirements of Building Note 83 and Building Advisory Committee Policy BAC2011/001 are met.

Northern Territory registered engineers

If the above exemptions are not met, an NT registered engineer is required to design the installation. A building permit and final inspection by a registered certifier is required.

In the NT, building certification is overseen by private registered building certifiers. A list of registered certifiers is available on the NT Building Practitioners website.

The flow charts on the following pages outline the building certification processes for cyclonic and non-cyclonic regions.
Building certification requirements for installing solar PV in non-cyclonic regions (wind regions A & B)

Installing Solar PV in wind region A & B non-Cyclonic by Clean Energy Accredited installers

Building Class 1 or 10

Yes

All components and installers approved by CEC

Yes

Building permit is less than 5 years old?

No

NT registered engineer to provide design (Section 40) for panels, rails and connections to roof.

No

Do Not Install

No

Building certifier inspection OK?

Yes

Install as per engineering

Yes

Occupancy Certification issued

Provided post install documents to owner

Provide a statement of compliance

Install as per manufacturer’s instructions

No

Apply for building permit

Building certifier inspection OK?

Yes

www.worksafe.nt.gov.au

Certification requirements for installing Photo Voltaic (PV) Panels on buildings (V2.0 – 19 April 2017)
Building certification requirements for installing solar PV in cyclonic regions (wind region C)

Installing Solar PV in cyclonic regions (Wind Region C) by Clean Energy Accredited installers

Installation on all buildings requires certification. No exemptions apply.

NT registered engineer to provide design (Section 40) for panels, rails and connections to roof.

Apply for building permit

Install as per engineering

Provide post install documents to owner

Occupancy Certification issued

Building certifier inspection OK?

Yes

No
Document links and other resources

Building Act (Section 55 – Building Permits)
Northern Territory Deemed to Comply Manual
Northern Territory Registered Building Certifiers Database
Building control areas (maps)
Building Notes
Building Advisory Committee Policies
Northern Territory Land Information Systems (Online Building Control Area search)
Clean Energy Council – Solar Accreditation
Clean Energy Council – Approved inverters
Clean Energy Council – Approved PV Modules
Clean Energy Council – Approved Installers
Clean Energy Council – Consumer Guide

Contact us

For further information on installation of Solar PV Panels in the Northern Territory contact Building Advisory Services on (08) 8999 8985 or email bas.lpe@nt.gov.au

For electrical and safety information contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or email ntworksafe@nt.gov.au