

Solar PV Grants: Technical Bulletin

Solar PV Installation Guidance

Series 2023-12-001 SPV

Introduction

Microgeneration is undergoing increasing popularity with homeowners. This is a big opportunity for your business. However, if we are going to scale up together, we need to bring about improvements in the efficient management of installs and make it the best possible experience for the homeowner.

This document describes the issues and related clarifications that commonly arise on the programme.

SEAI requires that registered companies and their installers pay close attention to the contents of this document and use it for training purposes.

Installation must be carried out in accordance with the relevant:

- SEAI Domestic Technical Specifications and Standards (DTSS) and
- SPV Contractor's Code of Practice (COP).

The SEAI Solar PV team would like to thank all Solar PV Companies and Installers for their hard work and commitment to the scheme throughout 2023. It has been a hugely successful year for the solar PV industry and in particular, domestic PV and homes installed through the Microgeneration Support Scheme.

As of the end of November 2023, registered companies and installers have installed over 20,000 PV systems, totalling nearly 102MW. This is an outstanding number of Solar PV installations and a magnificent achievement. Working together solar PV companies, installers, supply chain, homeowners and SEAI, are making a massive contribution towards our 2030 goals.

We wish all companies and installers, their staff and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's continue the great work in 2024.

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1. Scheme Grant Reduction

As set out at the launch of the Microgeneration Support Scheme in February 2022, the domestic Solar PV grant is due to decrease by €300 in 2024 and annually thereafter. This reduction is due to come into effect in January 2024. Please refer to the Solar PV webpage for updates to the scheme:

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/solar-electricity-grant/>

More information on the Microgeneration Support Scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b1fbe-micro-generation/#micro-generation-support-scheme-mss>

2. SEAI branding

While we welcome the active marketing of our programmes, the use of SEAI logos on any 3rd party materials is not permitted. This is to ensure that the market operates in a fair and competitive manner and that SEAI's independence and credibility is not compromised. Ongoing misuse of SEAI references/relationships may require further action on SEAI's behalf.

There is no such thing as an SEAI *Approved* entity, however the use of the phrase '*Registered SEAI Company*' or '*Registered SEAI Installer*' is permitted.

3. Inverter data label

There has been an increase in Companies submitting applications for payment that are missing inverter data label images or providing inverter data label images that are illegible. We are unable to process these applications for payment. The image must be provided with every single application and must be clear, up close and legible. Please see an acceptable photo below:



4. AC/DC Two Compartment Trunking

Two compartment trunking is acceptable for AC/ DC separation. It provides the necessary separation of the AC and the DC cables; however, the contractors' cable management needs to be of a high standard to avoid crossover on entering and exiting the trunking itself.

5. Safe Electric Note on DC Cabling

Safe Electric have issued a notification on an update to IS10101 on DC cabling:

7.4.3.6 Wiring identification

Except where the wiring is concealed in a wall, permanent indelible identification shall be provided for PV array cabling installed in or on buildings. PV array (and sub-array) cabling shall be identified by one of the following methods.

- PV cabling using distinctively marked PV cables shall be permanently, legibly and indelibly marked (e.g. cables to IEC 62930).
- Where cabling is not distinctively marked, distinctive coloured labels marked with the words 'SOLAR DC' shall be attached at an interval not exceeding 5 m under normal conditions and not exceeding 10 m on straight runs where a clear view is possible between labels.
- Where cable is enclosed in a conduit or ducting, labelling shall be attached to the exterior of the enclosure at intervals not exceeding 5 m.

Where multiple PV sub-arrays and or string conductors enter a combiner box or PCE they should be grouped or identified in pairs so that positive and negative conductors of the same circuit may easily be distinguished from other pairs.

Colour coding for DC systems required by IEC 60445:2010 is not required for PV systems.

NOTE PV cables are commonly black in colour to assist in UV resistance.

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