

Pre-assembled BS 16 - Information Sheet

Date published: 20 February 2026

Version 1.0

Overview

CER Checklist item: Pre-assembled BS 16

Is there a **site-specific shutdown procedure** that details the sequential steps to safely shut down the BS?

The shutdown procedure shall be:

- a) installed adjacent to the PCE to which the battery system is connected; and
- b) placed adjacent to and visible from the equipment to be operated in the event of a shutdown.

All labelling of devices shall be consistent with terminology used in the shutdown procedure.

The shutdown procedure shall also state that isolation of the battery system by isolation and shutting down the PCE may not de-energise the battery system and further action may be required.

Standard reference/s: AS/NZS 5139:2019 Clause 7.16.

1. Introduction

SAA has analysed Clean Energy Regulator (CER) inspection data to identify the most common areas of non-compliance. Based on these insights, we have developed educational resources that highlight where issues typically arise and offer practical guidance to support installers in achieving compliance. This document should be read in conjunction with the relevant Standard(s).

Pre-assembled BS 16 shall comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 5139:2019 Clause 7.16.

This document outlines the key requirements for correct installation of equipment and includes examples of observed non-compliances to highlight common installation errors and help prevent their recurrence.

Note: This defect applies to section 5 pre-assembled battery systems only.

2. Key requirements for compliant Pre-assembled 16

AS/NZS 5139:2019 clause 7.16 Shutdown procedure

All BESS shall include a permanent sign detailing the shutdown procedure that sets out the sequential steps to safely shutdown the BESS. The shutdown procedure shall be —

- (a) installed adjacent to the PCE to which the battery system is connected; and
- (b) placed adjacent to and visible from the equipment to be operated in the event of a shutdown.

Where the PCE is adjacent to the switchboard it is directly connected to, the shutdown procedure may be placed within that switchboard.

The sign detailing the shutdown procedure may also include the start-up procedure. All labelling of devices shall be consistent with terminology used in the shutdown procedure.

A warning shall be included in the shutdown procedure indicating that isolation of the battery system by isolation and shutting down the PCE may not de-energise the battery system and further action may be required.

The shutdown procedure should also include emergency contact information for manufacturer or supplier.

Also see: AS/NZS 5139:2019 Clause 7.2 Requirements for signs and labels

This clause contains requirements for the colour, size, durability of signs and labels.



Figure 1: Example shutdown label with the correct warning label. (Steps inserted need to be specific to the system installed).

3. Common non-compliances identified with this CER checklist item

3.1 An appropriate battery shutdown procedure has not been placed at the PCE or adjacent switchboard



Figure 2: Non-compliant – incorrect shutdown procedure present at the MSB and no shutdown procedure present at the battery system.

a) **Non-compliance:** This label is often installed in the wrong location, or the pre-existing PV shutdown procedure is mistakenly left in place. This is non-compliant, as the equipment required for safe isolation changes once a battery system is added. A new, site-specific shutdown procedure must be developed to identify all equipment and all supply types, and it must be positioned so that it is visible from every piece of equipment that forms part of the isolation process.

b) **Best Practice:** Understanding the products you are installing, and how they interact with either an existing or new PV system, is essential to determining how and where the shutdown procedure must be applied. This requirement forms a mandatory part of the installation workflow.



Figure 3: Compliant Shutdown Procedure mounted adjacent to the battery system.

3.2 Some items listed on the shutdown procedure do not align with the labels on electrical isolation equipment located onsite



Figure 4: Non-compliant - shutdown procedure terminology is not consistent with main switches and circuit breakers within the gateway, resulting in non-compliance sighted on inspection report.

- a) **Non-compliance:** Not all labelling kits include a shutdown procedure label that meets the requirements of the Standard. In many cases, the terminology on kit supplied labels does not match the shutdown procedure, or installers assume no further labelling is needed because the battery already carries a similar label (e.g. “BATTERY SWITCH”).

However, each piece of equipment must be labelled using terminology that aligns precisely with both the shutdown procedure and the Standard.

Inconsistent or mismatched terminology can create confusion during an emergency shutdown and may lead to incorrect isolation steps, increasing electrical safety risks.

- b) **Best Practice:** Use labels from a kit only when the terminology exactly matches the shutdown procedure. If it does not, obtain alternative labels from other suppliers, as custom labels may be required to ensure accuracy. Consistent terminology must be maintained across all equipment on each installation so the shutdown procedure remains clear, aligned with the Standard, and easy to follow during an emergency.

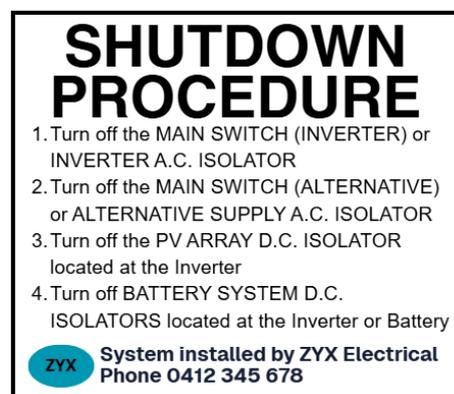


Figure 5: Example of a compliant shutdown procedure for a PV and battery system using correct terminology. Note the recommended inclusion of Emergency Contact Information.

3.3 The shutdown procedure shall state “isolation of the battery system by isolation and shutting down the PCE may not de-energise the battery system and further action may be required.”

- a) **Non-compliance:** This component of the shutdown procedure is typically supplied as a separate label, but it is often installed in the wrong location or omitted entirely. This label is essential — it alerts anyone working on the system to the specific electrical safety risks associated with battery installations and ensures that all required steps are followed when isolating the battery system.
- b) **Best Practice:** This requirement under AS/NZS 5139 applies to anyone who may interact with the battery system. The label provides critical electrical safety information and must always be installed alongside the shutdown procedure.



Figure 6: Non-compliant - correct warning label not applied, and incorrect placement of battery system dc isolator label resulting in non-compliance sighted in CER inspection.

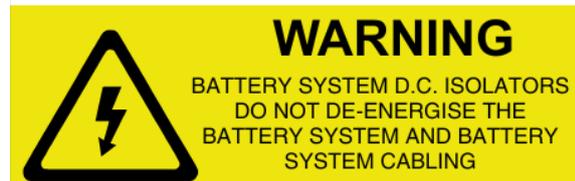


Figure 7: Compliant warning label as it would appear beneath the shutdown procedure.