

SIGN11 – Information Sheet

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Version 1.0

Overview

CER Checklist item: SIGN11

Solar system layout is not shown on a plan (map or drawing) suitably affixed and protected at the main switchboard and/or meter box. Or the site information sign does not meet the requirements in AS/NZS 5033:2021.

Standard reference: AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.6.1.

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).

SIGN11 shall comply with the requirements of AS/NZS5033:2021 Clause 5.6.1

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.



Figure 1: Compliant Solar system layout containing all requirements of Clause 5.6.

2. Key Requirements for compliant SIGN11 & SIGN 12

AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.6 Recording of solar system layout

SIGN 11 Requirements

AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.6.1 General

Solar system layout shall be shown on a plan (map or drawing) located at the main switchboard and/or meter box, fire panel.

The site information sign shall—

- a) be legible and be sufficiently durable for the location, i.e. be laminated or protected by a solid clear sheet (Perspex, etc);
- b) be fixed permanently in a manner appropriate for the location;
- c) be in English;
- d) be labelled “PV (Solar) site information” in white letters with a red background;
- e) show the location address as recorded for the installation;
- f) contain a plan view of the building showing the location of the PCE, the PV array(s);
NOTE 1 An elevation plan view of the building may also be included for more complex installations.
- g) contain a legend for the map or clearly label to identify key components and building reference points;
- h) identify the location of the site information sign with the words “you are here”;
- i) be as accurate as practicable ensuring the various components on the drawing are indicative of the actual installation; and
- j) installation date

NOTE 2 See Figure A.5 for example.

NOTE 3 In addition to the requirements of this Clause, electronic links such as QR codes may be added to provide additional information.

SIGN 12 Requirements

AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.6.1.1 Additional information for PV d.c. systems

Additional site information for PV d.c. systems shall include:

- a) the path of the d.c. cabling;
- b) the location of d.c. disconnection point(s) indicated by “DP”;
- c) the location of additional load break disconnectors;
- d) PV array size;
- e) d.c. Voltage; and
- f) contain a warning where d.c. disconnection type(s) can only be operated by suitable qualified personnel.

EXCEPTION — These requirements do not apply for systems with a calculated PV d.c. circuit maximum voltage is less than 120 V d.c. and where the inverter is located within 1.5 m of the connected PV module using d.c. disconnection consistent with Clause 4.5.3.1.

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

Given the comprehensive requirements that apply to the solar system layout, compliance can only be achieved when **all criteria are met in full**.

Partial compliance is not accepted; therefore, the absence or inaccuracy of even one required element may result in a defect being recorded.

3.1 Solar system layout has not been left in the MSB and/or fire panel

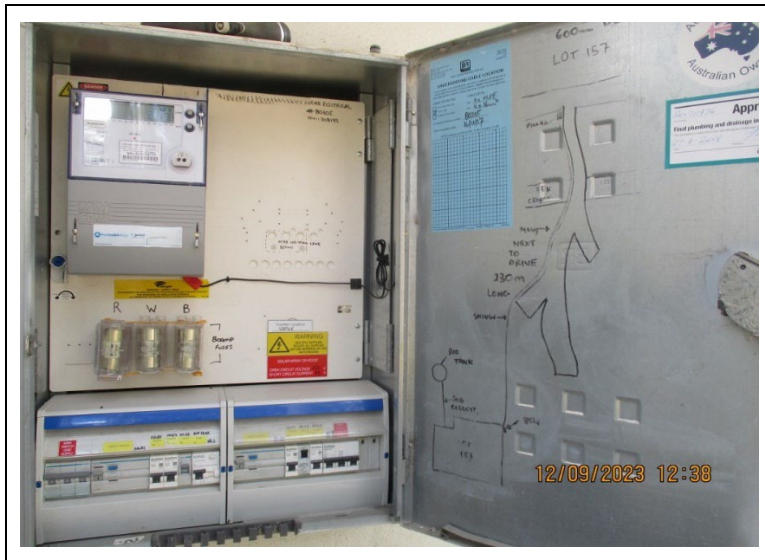


Figure 2: Non-compliant MSB without a Solar system layout.

- a) **Non-compliance:** It is commonly identified that the solar system layout has not been installed at the main switchboard and/or fire panel as required. This suggests that some installers either do not fully understand the requirement or incorrectly assume it is outside their scope of responsibility. However, installation of the solar system layout is a **mandatory requirement** and remains the responsibility of the installer on site to ensure it is correctly provided and securely installed.

In addition, installers frequently fail to use an appropriate fixing method. Where incorrect or inadequate adhesive is used, the sign may detach or be lost when the main switchboard is opened by the system owner or by other electrical contractors attending the site.

A complete and securely installed solar system layout is critical for providing homeowners, inspectors, and future electricians with a clear and accurate layout of the system's key components and their locations. The absence of this information increases risk in emergency situations, where rapid identification of isolation points is essential, and makes future maintenance or system modifications unnecessarily difficult for those attending site.

- b) **Best Practice:** The solar system layout must be completed **upon finalisation of the installation**, making it one of the final steps in the installation workflow. To ensure this critical requirement is not overlooked, it should be formally embedded as a standard, non-optional part of the installation process.

The two simplest and most effective methods for achieving this are:

1. **Carry hand-drawn solar system layout templates** in the work vehicle, allowing them to be clearly completed with a permanent marker at the end of each job, in accordance with Figure 3.
2. **Bring a laptop and laminating equipment to site**, enabling the solar system layout to be updated digitally using appropriate software, printed, laminated, and immediately fixed to the main switchboard and/or fire panel before leaving site.

Installers should not leave site with the intention of returning later to install the solar system layout. This task is easily forgotten and significantly increases the likelihood of non-compliance being identified during inspection, potentially impacting accreditation outcomes.

Making completion and installation of the solar system layout a non-negotiable part of the workflow supports both safety and compliance. The solar system layout should be fixed using a construction adhesive suitable for the mounting surface to ensure it remains securely in place for the life of the system and is not damaged, dislodged, or lost during normal operation.

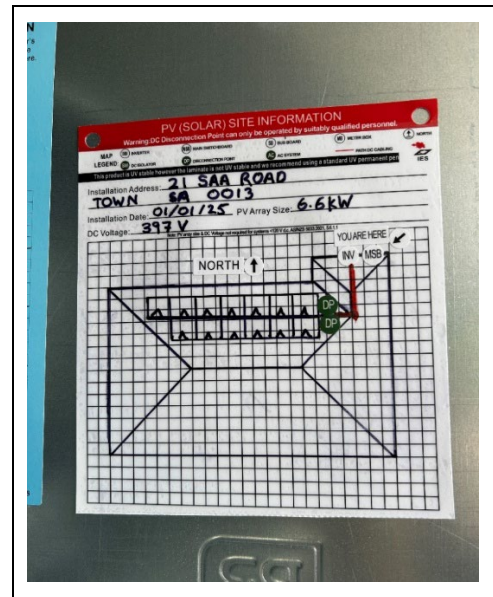


Figure 3: Hand drawn solar system layout compliant with all requirements.

3.2 Solar system layout is incomplete/missing key information or displays incorrect information

- a) **Non-compliance:** The extensive requirements of Clause 5.6.1 mean that installers may inadvertently omit one or more mandatory elements, often resulting in a defect being recorded on the inspection report.

In Figure 4, the solar system layout is missing the site address, a legend to identify key components, and the “you are here” location

identifier. This identifier is critical, as it establishes the physical reference point for the site information plan and enables users to correctly interpret the layout shown.

Legibility and accuracy are also essential compliance requirements that are frequently overlooked. The site information plan must be clear, easy to interpret, and **as accurate as practicable**, with all components shown being representative of the actual installation.

A complete and accurate site information plan is essential for providing homeowners, inspectors, and future electricians with a clear understanding of the system’s key components and their locations. Failure to provide this information increases risk in emergency situations, where rapid identification of isolation points is critical, and makes future maintenance or system modifications unnecessarily difficult for those attending site.

- b) **Best Practice:** Using software to create the solar system layout is an effective way to help ensure all mandatory requirements are captured and compliance is achieved. Alternatively, clearly hand-drawn solar system layout may be used, provided they include **all required information** in accordance with the standard. When using hand-drawn signs, installers are encouraged to use templates that include a pre-defined legend and component stickers, as these can assist in accurately identifying key system components.

As outlined previously in Section 3.1, completion and installation of the solar system layout should be formally incorporated into the installation workflow and carried out as part of **system commissioning and handover**, rather than treated as a separate or optional task.

A sound understanding of the requirements of **AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.6** is essential to avoid omitting critical details and to reduce the likelihood of non-compliance being identified through the CER inspection program.

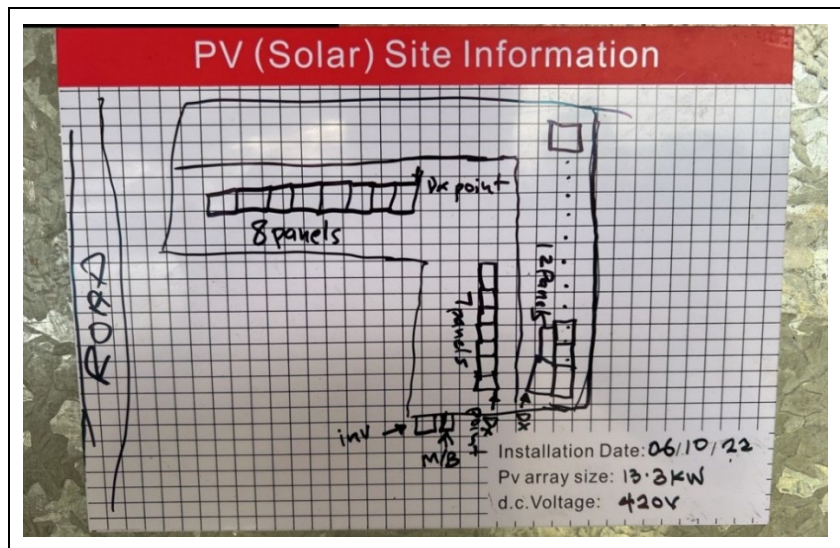


Figure 4: Non-compliant Solar system layout missing key information.