SIGN15 – Information Sheet

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Version 1.0

Overview

CER Checklist item: SIGN15

The sign “WARNING: PV String Disconnection Point” is not placed within 300mm of the disconnection point on the PV module or structure to show the disconnection point’s location.

Standards reference: AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.5.2.2.

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).

SIGN15 shall comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.5.2.2.

Figure 1: Compliant warning labels placed within 300mm of the disconnection point.

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.

2. Key Requirements for compliant SIGN14 & SIGN 15

SIGN 14

AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.5.2.2 Disconnection point

A sign containing the following text shall be attached to both the positive and negative cable within 100 mm of the disconnection point of the PV string:

WARNING: LOADS MUST BE ISOLATED AND CIRCUIT MUST BE TESTED FOR THE ABSENCE OF CURRENT BEFORE UNPLUGGING

NOTE 1 See Figure A.4(c).

SIGN 15

A sign containing the following text shall be attached to the PV module or structure within 300 mm of the disconnection point to identify the location of the disconnection point:

WARNING: PV STRING DISCONNECTION POINT

NOTE 2 See Figure A.4(d).

The text shall be with a minimum letter size of 10 mm.

Figure 2: Example image of a compliant label.

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

3.1 Disconnection point is not located within 300 mm of the warning label

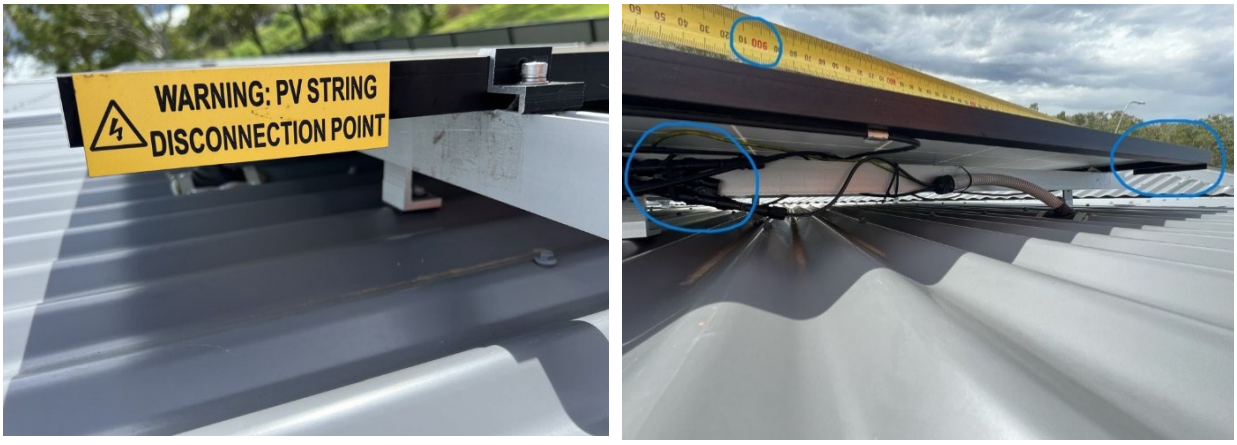

Figure 3: Non-compliant as warning label located more than 300mm from the disconnection point.

Figure 4: The disconnection point is fixed to the rails greater than 300mm from the warning label, this is non-compliant.

a) **Non-compliance:** It is frequently observed that, while installers provide the required warning label, it is not positioned within **300 mm of the disconnection point**, as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. This issue is commonly identified alongside other CER defects associated with the incorrect installation of PV string disconnection points.

Disconnection points themselves must be installed **no more than 150 mm from the edge of the PV modules**. Securing disconnection points to the mounting rails,

as shown in Figure 4, often results in multiple non-compliances with the Standard, including incorrect separation distances and improper label placement.

The requirement to position the warning label within 300 mm of the disconnection point exists to ensure the disconnection point can be **quickly and unambiguously identified** by anyone working on the roof. This is particularly critical for emergency services personnel, who may need to rapidly locate and isolate the PV string during an emergency situation.

b) **Best Practice:** A clear understanding of both the requirements of the Standard and the purpose of this warning label is essential to maintaining compliance. As best practice, disconnection points should be clipped to the edge of the PV module using purpose-designed **stainless steel PV module clips**, ensuring they are securely fixed in their intended location. Once the disconnection point is correctly installed, the associated warning label must then be positioned **within 300 mm** of the disconnection point.

While this is a relatively simple requirement, it is frequently implemented incorrectly across installations. In many cases, non-compliance arises from the initial placement of the disconnection point itself, which then prevents correct label positioning and contributes to broader system compliance issues. The requirement is clearly defined in the Standard and remains an area where industry practice requires improvement to ensure disconnection points are readily identifiable on the rooftop.

As a matter of good practice, warning labels should be installed **last**, once the connectors are in their final positions and the PV array has been fully commissioned. This helps ensure accurate placement, avoids rework, and supports long-term compliance.

Figure 5: Compliant warning label placed within 300mm of the two disconnection points.