

SIGN13 – Information Sheet

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Version 1.1

Overview

CER Checklist item: SIGN13

The sign "WARNING: HAZARDOUS d.c. VOLTAGE Solar d.c. cables in conduit have been installed in this ceiling space. The conduit is labelled 'SOLAR' and care must be taken while working nearby. The internal solar d.c. cables may be live and must not be disturbed or damaged" is missing or incorrectly displayed.

Standard reference: AS/NZS5033:2021 5.3.1.2

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).

SIGN13 shall comply with the requirements of AS/NZS5033:2021 5.3.1.2

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: A compliant label installed adjacent to the access point of an accessible roof space.

2. Key Requirements for compliant SIGN13

AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.3.1.2 In a ceiling space or accessible floor space

Where PV d.c. wiring systems between the disconnection point and a load break disconnection device are installed in an accessible ceiling space or within an accessible floor space, a warning label shall be installed adjacent to the access point containing the warning symbol and stating the following:

WARNING: HAZARDOUS d.c. VOLTAGE Solar d.c. cables in conduit have been installed in this ceiling space. The conduit is labelled 'SOLAR' and care must be taken while working nearby. The internal solar d.c. cables may be live and must not be disturbed or damaged.

NOTE 1 The yellow warning can be separate but added above the information sign so as to simplify sign manufacturing.

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

NOTE 2 See Figure A.1.

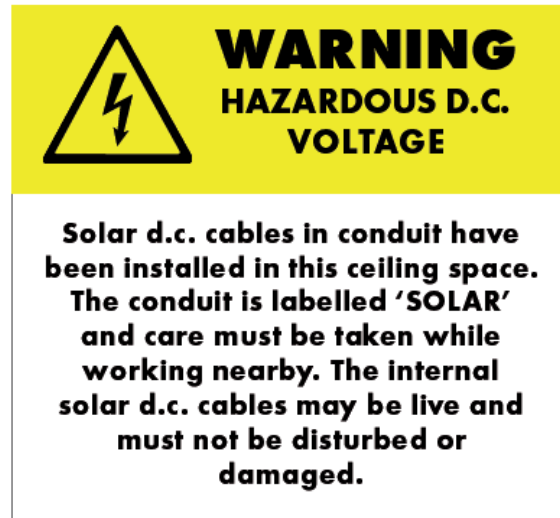


Figure 2: Warning sign for solar d.c. cables in accessible roof/floor space as per figure A.1 - AS/NZS 5033:2021.

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

3.1 Warning label is missing resulting in incomplete signage at access point

- a) **Non-compliance:** It is frequently observed that installers fail to install the required warning label in conjunction with the "Cables in the ceiling" label, as illustrated in Figure 3 and Figure 4. While some labelling manufacturers supply these warnings as separate labels to simplify production, it remains the installer's responsibility to ensure that both labels are correctly installed within the roof or ceiling space where disconnection points are used as the isolation method.

In some cases, these labels are incorrectly installed at the main switchboard, or are not installed at all, resulting in non-compliance.



Figure 3: Non-compliant: the label does not contain the WARNING: HAZARDOUS d.c. VOLTAGE portion of the label.

Failure to install the appropriate warning signage presents a significant safety risk to anyone entering roof or ceiling spaces where photovoltaic (PV) d.c. cabling is present. This risk is particularly relevant for other tradespeople who may be unaware of the presence of PV wiring while undertaking work in these areas.

PV d.c. cabling is not protected by circuit protection devices and, in domestic installations, may operate at voltages of up to 1000 V d.c. As such, this cabling and any associated enclosures must not be disturbed under any circumstances.

Correct and clearly visible labelling is essential to ensure all personnel are adequately warned of the potential hazard and can take appropriate precautions before entering or working within ceiling or roof spaces.

- b) **Best Practice:** To ensure compliance, both labels (where not supplied as a combined label) must be securely fixed adjacent to the under floor or roof space access point, in a position that is clearly visible to anyone entering under floor or the roof space. Where a property has multiple under floor or roof space access points, a compliant label in accordance with AS/NZS 5033:2021 Clause 5.3.1.2 must be installed at each access point, ensuring that any person entering is adequately warned of the hazards associated with PV d.c. wiring.

It is considered best practice to keep an adequate supply of these labels in the work vehicle. Failure to install the required labels at each access point may result in a defect being raised during audit or inspection, requiring a return visit to the site to rectify the non-compliance.

Labels should be positioned thoughtfully and fixed to a suitable adjacent surface; placing them directly on the manhole cover is discouraged and is generally considered aesthetically unacceptable.