Solar Accreditation Australia

SAA Technical Requirements

These SAA Technical Requirements have been developed by Solar Accreditation Australia (SAA). SAA Technical Requirements apply to the design and installation of grid-connected solar photovoltaic systems (GCPV), grid-connected battery systems (GCBS), stand-alone power systems (SPS), Wind and Micro Hydro. SAA Technical Requirements exist in addition to applicable Australian Standards and the local, state/territory and national legal requirements.

While all care has been taken to ensure these SAA Technical Requirements are free from omission and error, they are provided to support best practice and are no substitute for the due care and diligence of designers and installers. No responsibility can be taken for the use of this information in the installation of any GCPV, GCBS or SPS.

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1 General

The objective of the SAA Technical Requirements:

- Improve the safety, performance and reliability of GCPV, GCBS and SPS installed in the field.
- Encourage industry best practice for all design and installation work involving solar photovoltaic power systems.
- Provide a network of competent designers and installers.
- Increase the uptake of renewable energy systems by giving system owners increased confidence in the design and installation work.

The performance of a reliable installation, that fulfils system owner expectations, requires both careful design and correct installation practice. Compliance with relevant state health and safety regulations is also necessary.

NOTE: These SAA Technical Requirements alone do not constitute a fully definitive set of rules and are to be read in conjunction with all relevant Australian Standards and local requirements. Where these SAA Technical Requirements go beyond those stated in the Australian Standards, then the SAA Technical Requirements shall be followed.

About your accreditation

Central to SAA's work with designers and installers is an accreditation program we refer to as the SAA Scheme.

The SAA Scheme is an accreditation scheme for the purpose of reg 20AC of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) administers. All PV systems within the SRES must be designed and installed by a person accredited under the SAA Scheme.

SAA accreditation, depending on the type held, demonstrates a person's competence in the design and/or installation of:

- grid-connected solar PV systems (GCPV)
- stand-alone power systems (SPS)
- grid-connected battery storage (GCBS)

Holding SAA accreditation is one criterion for participation in Government incentive schemes such as the SRES. The objective of the SAA's regulatory program is to increase consumer confidence in renewable energy services, systems and products. SAA's main strategic objective is to accelerate Australia's transition to a clean energy future. Growth of the PV sector relies on the industry maintaining a high standard of quality, customer service and safety.

The SAA Code of Conduct requires an accredited person to follow all requirements in the relevant Australian Standards, local, state/territory and national laws, and these SAA Technical Requirements. Where a SAA accredited person is found not to comply with these requirements, the accredited person will be subject to the SAA compliance process and may be subject to other regulatory action by relevant state/territory and/or federal bodies.

The SAA compliance process may include:

- being required to rectify non-compliant work
- additional training or assessment
- suspension or cancellation of accreditation

Installers and Designers are required to stay up to date with changes in the industry by completing 100 continual professional development (CPD) points per year.

2 Definitions

This document uses the same terminology as outlined in AS/NZS 3000. Some important definitions are:

2.1 **Shall:** Where the word "shall" is used, this indicates that the requirements of a statement are mandatory.

2.2 **Should:** Where the word "should" is used, this indicates that the matters recommended in a statement are recommendations.

2.3 **System/s:** For the purposes of this document, system/s is used to refer to a 'renewable energy system' of the following types:

a) A Grid-connected Photovoltaic (GCPV) system
b) A Grid-connected Battery Storage (GCBS) system
c) A Stand-alone Power System (SPS)

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3 Responsibilities of an Accredited Person

3.1 Signing off as an Accredited Installer

3.1.1

An Accredited Person shall only sign off on systems where they have:

a) met all relevant requirements of the accreditation scheme;
b) undertaken the installation; or
c) supervised the installation by others (Unrestricted electrical license required when supervising the installation of systems operating above ELV)
d) Supervision includes attending the site during:
    i. job set up;
    ii. mid-installation check-up; and
    iii. testing and commissioning.

3.1.2

Sign off is defined as the installer or supervisor performing the testing and commissioning requirements.

3.1.3

The date of sign off is the day that the installer or supervisor performs the testing and commissioning requirements.

Note: It is vitally important that a system is tested to ensure it is safe at the time of final sign off.

3.2 Multiple Installers

3.2.1

If multiple installers are to complete separate phases of a single installation, the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) must be notified in writing, prior to the change of installer with the:

a) details of the installation
b) details of each installer
c) the rationale for the change of installer

Should it not be practical or possible for notification to be provided prior to the installation the CER will consider the request and the compliance of the installation with this clause on a case-by-case basis at their sole discretion.

3.3 Responsibilities of System Designers

3.3.1

System designers must comply with the following responsibilities:

a) Provide full specifications of the system including quantity, make and model, number of the solar modules and inverter/s.
b) Provide a site-specific full system design including all shading issues, orientation and tilt, along with the system's site-specific energy yield, including average daily performance estimate in kWh for each month of solar generation.

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c) Ensure array design will fit on available roof space.
d) Ensure array mounting frame installation will comply with AS/NZS1170.2.
e) Ensure array configuration is compatible with the inverter specification.
f) Ensure all equipment is fit for purpose and correctly rated.
g) Obtain warranty information on all equipment.

3.4 Installation Limit

3.4.1. Installation limit per day

Where an Accredited Installer is physically undertaking all stages of an installation or supervising an installation by others, they **shall not sign off more than two (2) installations per day.**

This limit applies to both solar and battery systems. Accreditees who install both system types may structure their installations within the prescribed limits as follows, either:

a) Two solar systems,
b) Two battery systems or,
c) One solar system and one battery system

Note 1: A solar system and battery system installed at a single site at the same time are two (2) installations for the purpose of the Installation Limit, even when they share a common inverter.

Note 2: The day of sign-off is the STC claim date regardless of when the balance of the system was installed.

Note 3: This sign-off limit applies to small-scale solar (photovoltaic) and battery storage devices only. Mid-scale solar (photovoltaic) devices are limited to one system sign-off per day.

3.5 Multiple Systems at one location

Exemption applications apply where multiple systems are installed:

a) in stages and,
b) at a single location/site.

The Accredited Person installing or supervising these installations may apply for an exemption from clause 3.4 to sign off up to TEN systems per day.

a) Examples could be any one of:
b) an apartment block,
c) a retirement village or,
d) a factory development;

3.5.1 Criteria for Exemption

All the following criteria must be met for an exemption application to be approved:

a) The systems on the exemption application are being installed in stages.
b) All systems listed on the exemption application are at a single location/site.
c) One accreditee will sign off on all systems listed in the exemption application. The accreditee who commissions and signs off on the systems must be the accreditee listed in the exemption application.

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3.5.2 More than 10 systems at a single site

SAA can provide exemptions for sites with more than 10 systems at a single site. All systems can be lodged in a single application with supporting documents such as site plans and lists of system addresses.

3.5.3 Exemption Application and Assessment

a) Download the 'Exemption Application Form' from the SAA website.
b) Fill out the form and provide all the required details of the site.
c) Submit the application to SAA via email – enquiriesandcpd@saaustralia.com.au
d) SAA will assess the application, and exemptions will be granted to accreditees who can demonstrate that the site is eligible with respect to the criteria for exemption.

Exemption applications that do not meet the criteria will be rejected.

3.5.4 Approved Exemption Applications

An SAA Exemption Approval shall be the only acceptable evidence of an exemption from the requirements of clause 2.5.1.

3.5.5 Commissioning and Sign off of Approved Exemptions

Only systems listed on the exemption can be signed off/commissioned on the date of commissioning. Additional sites not listed on the exemption will be ineligible if signed off on the same day as exempt sites.

*Note 1: Exemption applications can include more than ten addresses from a single site. While all addresses can be listed in a single application, the sign off limit of **TEN** systems per day still applies.*

3.5.6 Timeframes for Application and Assessment

Exemptions can be applied for at any stage prior to installation and up to 12 months post installation. Processing times for exemptions are 5-10 business days.

3.6 Accreditation Type Required for Off-Grid Pumping Systems, Solar Powered Pool Pumps and Solar Power Systems that Power Air Conditioners

3.6.1

An SAA Grid-Connect PV (GCPV) Accreditation is sufficient for off-grid pumping systems, solar powered pool pumps and solar power systems that power air conditioners.

4 Oversizing

4.1 PV to Inverter Ratio – No Batteries

The inverter nominal AC power output cannot be less than 75% of the array peak power and it shall not be outside the inverter manufacturer's maximum allowable array size specifications.

4.2 PV to Inverter Ratio – with Connected Battery Systems

PV array peak power can exceed the 75% ratio in clause 4.1 but shall not be outside the inverter manufacturer's maximum allowable array size specifications. The table contains examples.

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System Details				
Array peak power in Watts Peak (Wp)	6600Wp	6600Wp	6600Wp	6600Wp
75% of array peak power.	4950Wp	4950Wp	4950Wp	4950Wp
Inverter manufacturer's maximum allowable array size.	7500Wp	6500Wp	7500Wp	6500Wp
Inverter manufacturer's nominal AC power.	5000Wp	5000Wp	4500Wp	4500Wp
Questions				
Is the manufacturer's maximum allowable array size greater than array peak power?	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is the inverter nominal AC power greater than 75% of array peak power?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Result – Systems covered by Clause 4.1				
Is the array peak power to inverter nominal AC power acceptable?	Yes	No	No	No
Result – Systems covered by Clause 4.2				
Is the array peak power to inverter nominal AC power acceptable?	Yes	No	Yes	No

5 Installation Requirements

5.1 Roof Mounting (Not Building Integrated)

5.1.1

It is important to allow enough clearance under the array to facilitate self-cleaning of the roof to prevent the build-up of leaves and other debris (refer to roofing manufacturer's installation manual).

5.1.2

If fauna (such as birds, vermin, etc) are a problem in the vicinity of the installation, consideration should be given to how to prevent them gaining access to the roof area under the array.

5.1.3

Tiles shall sit flat after the installation of tile mounting brackets to ensure the tiles maintain their original ingress protection. There may be a requirement to grind the underside of the tile to enable it to sit correctly.

Note 1: Due to updated requirements for control of silica dust, we recommend you seek advice from your relevant State or Territory Work Safety Regulator.

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5.2 Building Integrated (BIPV) Installations

5.2.1
The installation of modules that are being used as building material (e.g. tiles, building walls, sun-screens) shall only be installed by a person qualified to install that particular type of building element and be an accredited installer/s.

5.2.2
Roof tiles shall be installed in accordance with these Guidelines, all relevant Standards and the additional requirements as specified by the manufacturer's requirements.

5.3 Wiring System Roof Penetration

5.3.1

Where the PV array cable and conduit passes through a tile or steel roof, a fit for purpose collar flashing shall be installed (e.g. dektite).

Note: Equipment selected shall be fit for purpose and shall last the life of the system.

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6 Revisions and version history

Version no.	Description of changes	Pages affected	Approved by / Effective date	Implementation actions
1.9	Document name updated to SAA Technical Requirements Revision and version history table added to support tracking	All	6 February 2026	Publish to website. Provide new document link to CER.
2.0	Mid-scale installation limit included	5	25 September 2026	Publish to website. Provide new document link to CER.

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