

## **Series 1 – AB 2188 Requirements**

### **Issue 1 – Single Inspection Guidelines for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy Systems**

#### **1. Issue Statement:**

***What should be considered sufficient to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in order to comply with the single inspection requirements of AB 2188?***

#### **2. Background:**

All California jurisdictions are mandated by the State to adopt an expedited PV permitting process in accordance with Assembly Bill 2188. The Solar Energy Action Committee (SEAC) has identified practical methods of compliance with the AB 2188 requirements in an effort to assist local building officials.

#### **3. Current Status:**

SEAC has identified successful single inspection procedures currently in use by several jurisdictions. In addition, SEAC is providing innovative recommendations that can be used to develop AB 2188 compliant single inspection procedures.

#### **4. Key considerations:**

The objective of these recommendations is to facilitate system approval in one inspection. Many of the solutions simply require a greater education, relationship, and communication of expectations between the AHJ and the installer.

#### **5. Recommendation(s):**

- 1) The installer should ensure that a qualified individual who is familiar with the applicable codes and installation procedures be onsite at time of inspection to provide access to the system and all components and to answer any questions from the inspector.
- 2) Access to the roof should be provided in accordance with the latest CAL/OSHA guidelines.
- 3) Approved construction documents and installation instructions shall be available onsite at time of inspection for major system components, including: Inverters, Modules, Power Optimizers, and Racking and Mounting systems.

- 4) Affidavits, signed by the installer and homeowner, may be considered by the AHJ as verification of installation of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms required by the California Residential Code.
- 5) Ongoing training by qualified organizations regarding the one inspection process and installation procedures should be encouraged on a regional basis.
- 6) The AHJ may adopt specific details on photographic documentation that is required at time of inspection as an aid of the inspection process and as a tool to be used in lieu of removal of specific components.

SEAC recommendations include the following photo guidelines that may be used for inspection of items not readily accessible to the inspector and should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

Photographs shall be of sufficient clarity to clearly demonstrate the elements being inspected, and shall include evidence that the photograph is connected to the property of the inspection site.

Include photo(s) of:

- 1) PV module label. If more than one module type is used on a project, there must be a photo for each different module, including the micro-inverter.
- 2) Method of flashings at attachments and penetrations, including the sub flashing beneath tiles.
- 3) Method of grounding and bonding PV modules and racking systems.
- 4) Wire management under PV modules.
- 5) Conduit penetrations of the roof and inaccessible portions of the structure.
- 6) Proof of height of conduit above the roofing material to verify temperature de-rate calculations.
- 7) Attic-run conduit and fastening methods.
- 8) All junction and/or combiner boxes with the cover removed.
- 9) Any required labels or markings not readily accessible at time of inspection.

#### **6. Applicable to whom:**

The recommendations would apply to all solar energy stakeholders.

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SEACRP1/201511-v1*

**Recommended Practices Number:** SEACRP1/201511-v1  
**Revision:** 1  
**Revision Date:** November 15, 2015  
**Date of Conceptual Consensus:** October 29, 2015  
**Date of Majority Committee Consensus:** November 15, 2015

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