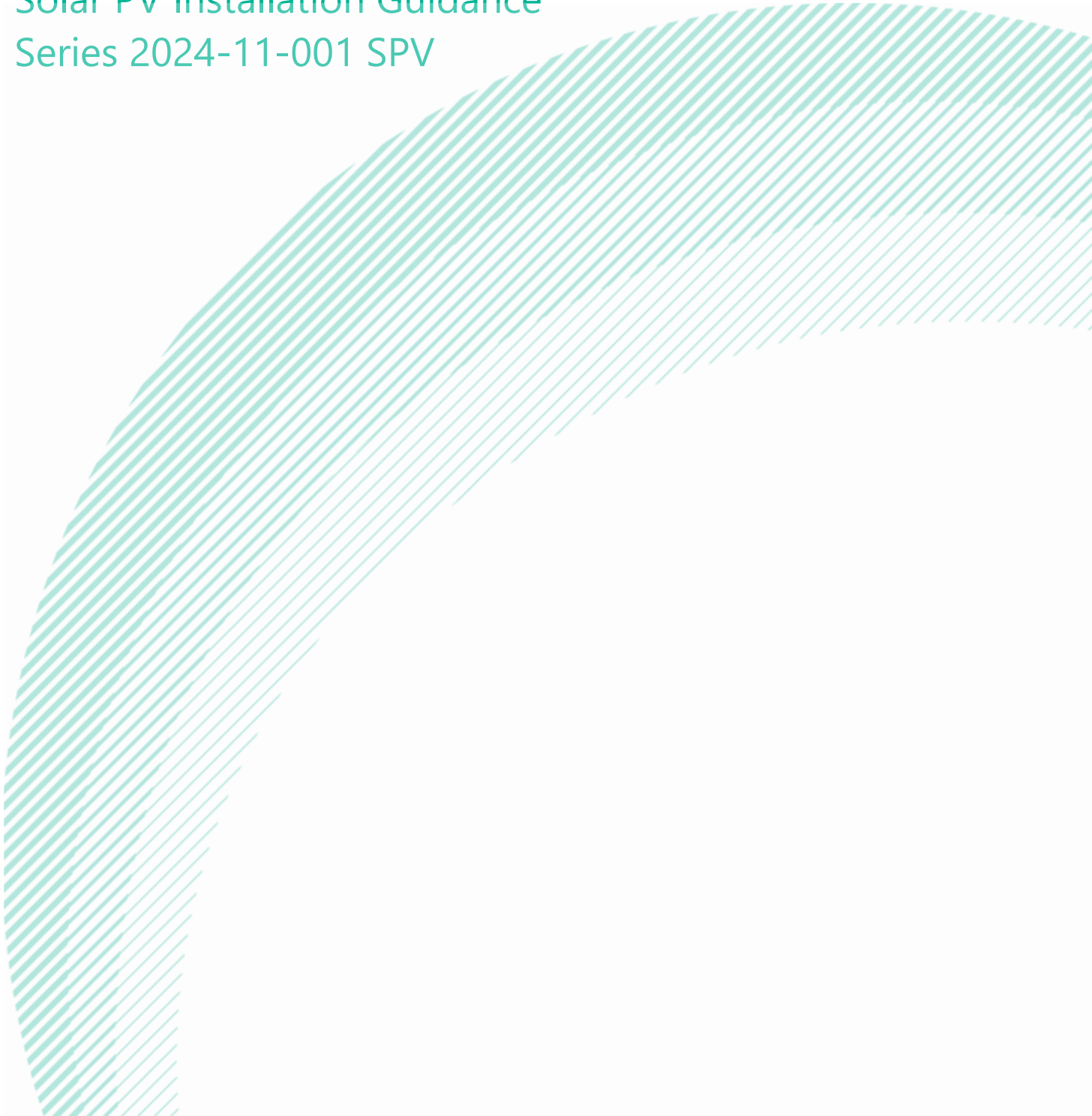


Solar PV Grants: Technical Bulletin

Solar PV Installation Guidance

Series 2024-11-001 SPV



Introduction

Microgeneration is undergoing increasing popularity with homeowners. This is a big opportunity for your business. However, if we are going to scale up together, we need to bring about improvements in the efficient management of installs.

This document describes the issues and related clarifications that commonly arise on the programme.

SEAI requires that registered companies and their installers pay close attention to the contents of this document and use it for training purposes.

Installation must be carried out in accordance with the relevant:

- SEAI Domestic Technical Specifications and Standards (DTSS) and
- SPV Contractor's Code of Practice (COP)

In Appendix 2 of the Quality Assurance and Development Programme (QADP) there is a full list of checks, used by SEAI Inspectors. Use these checks as part of your own Quality Management System before signing and submitting a Declaration of Works Form (DOW) to SEAI.

<https://www.seai.ie/publications/Solar-PV-QADP.pdf>

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1. Location of Automatic Isolation (Shunt)

Following on from the email notification dated 19/7/24 regarding Code of Practice COP and QADP updates on DC Cabling, to clarify our position, and reduce the risk from long runs of DC cabling, SEAI recommend that the automatic isolation (shunt) be placed as close as *practicable* to the array.

- For Roof mounted systems, where the circuit from the solar PV modules enters the building, automatic isolation should be within 1.5m cable length of the solar PV modules where practicable but, no more than 1.5m cable length from where it enters the building.
- For Roof mounted systems, where the circuit from the solar PV modules does not enter the building, automatic isolation should be within 1.5m cable length where *practicable* of the solar PV modules.
- For ground mounted systems, automatic isolation must be within 1.5m cable length of the solar PV modules.

In all scenarios, care must be taken to ensure the DC cable is appropriately protected from external forces i.e., use of conduit or SWA cable etc.

2. Inspection, Testing and Commissioning Report (ITC)

The Solar PV installer runs specific electrical tests and records the outputs on this document. The ITC document also declares that the responsible person(s) for the design, construction, inspection and testing of the electrical system has inspected and tested the design and structure with suitable skill and care and that it meets the requirements of the Domestic Solar Photovoltaic – Code of Practice.

The registered Installer who carried out the Solar PV installation **must be the one** to complete and sign the ITC.

3. Inverter Data Labelling

There has been a significant increase in companies submitting applications for payment either

- With NO Inverter Data Label image attached
or
- A blurred/out of focus photograph of an Inverter Data Label

We are unable to process these applications for payment. A photograph must be provided with every single application.

The Solar PV Grant payment cannot be released to homeowners unless we receive a **clear image** of the Inverter Data Label.

Companies are responsible for ensuring that they fully complete and submit all of the mandatory documentation to ensure their homeowners are paid the grant monies by the SEAI on time and without delay.

There are numerous cases where the final grant payment to customers has been stopped simply due to the fact that the photograph of the Inverter Data Label has not been provided.

4. Editing SEAI Documents

It is not permissible to edit SEAI documents in any way whether this be format; content; or adding; or removing a logo.

We have received payment submissions where our SEAI documents have been altered noticed in particular on both the Declaration of Works Form (DOW) and the Inspection Testing and Commissioning Report (ITC).

SEAI documentation/forms that are submitted as part of a Homeowners application for payment of a Solar PV grant that have been altered in any way will be automatically rejected.

We would ask that you do not amend or re-format SEAI documents. Please complete and submit the original forms as requested.

5. Significant update to the BER Advisory Report

When a Building Energy Rating (BER) assessment is completed, a homeowner will receive a package containing a BER Certificate and an Advisory Report.

The BER Advisory Report provides a personalised roadmap for homeowners on how to upgrade their home to a target of B2 energy rating or better.

We would like to draw your attention to the BER Advisory Report as there has been a significant update made to this document recently. It can be found on the BER Information section of the SEAI website.

For more details and to download a sample report please go to <https://www.seai.ie/ber/ber-advisory-report/>

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