



# Fire protection grade identification requirements for photovoltaic panels

What are the fire safety requirements for a rooftop PV system?

IBC Section 1509.7.2 includes requirements for fire classification of rooftop mounted PV systems. IRC Section M2302.2.1 includes requirements for non-combustible or flame retardant materials. The objective of the code is that the installation of a PV system doesn't compromise the minimum fire safety requirements for the roof.

Does a PV system have a fire rating?

New language in the 2012 IBC requires the PV system to match the required fire rating of the roof. The general requirement for roofing systems in the IBC is for Class B and C fire rating. (Class B for assembly occupancy buildings) California has the most Class A and B roof fire rating requirements.

Are PV modules fire rated?

However, PV modules are components of PV systems and, although PV modules can receive a fire rating in accordance with UL 1703, there is presently no American National Standards Institute (ANSI) classification test or fire rating for a PV system.

Does a PV system compromise the minimum fire safety requirements?

The objective of the code is that the installation of a PV system doesn't compromise the minimum fire safety requirements for the roof. The language of this section states that the fire classification of PV systems must match the minimum fire classification of the roof assembly over which it is mounted.

Are photovoltaic panels fire rated?

Effective January 1, 2015, Rooftop mounted photovoltaic panels and modules shall be tested, listed and identified with a fire classification in accordance with UL 1703. The fire classification shall comply with Table 1505.1 of the California Building Code based on the type of construction of the building.

Is there a fire classification for solar PV systems?

Currently technical working groups of SolarABCs, UL, ANSI, and other stakeholders are developing standards through which a fire classification for PV systems can be adopted. Until those standards are developed, vetted, and adopted the requirements of IBC 1509.7.2 cannot be easily applied.

Firefighters arrive at the scene of a fire, and then identify the solar system on the structure, shut it down, watch for hazards as they extinguish the flames, and make sure the scene is safe when they leave. Common questions about fire ...



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The installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems presents additional areas of concern for firefighter safety (energized equipment, trip hazards, etc.) and fire fighting operations ...

o BS EN IEC 62446-2:2020 Photovoltaic (PV) systems - Requirements for testing, documentation and maintenance - Part 2: Grid connected systems - Maintenance of PV . systems o IEC TR ...

Solar photovoltaic systems that contain rapid shutdown in accordance with both Items 1 and 2 of Section 1205.4.1 or solar photovoltaic systems where only portions of the systems on the ...

Figure 2-3: Types of Solar Power Systems of Interest to the Fire Service Figure 2-4: Typical Residential Installation of a Solar Power System Figure 2-5: Example of a Large Solar Power ...

The 2020 National Electrical Code<sup>®</sup> (NEC<sup>®</sup>) has been available since September/October 2019 can be ordered now from NFPA and various online dealers, including IAEI. Although changes to the 2020 NEC for PV ...

Most PV modules have Class C fire rating, while some have an A rating. This requirement, as interpreted and applied by some AHJ, effectively eliminates modules with a Class C fire rating from consideration in rooftop systems.

User note: About this chapter: The source code for section numbers in parenthesis is the 2018 International Building Code <sup>®</sup>, except where the International Fire Code <sup>®</sup> has been denoted. Chapter 5 is specific to ...

1.2. Cases of fires involving PV systems Although rare, there have been fire incidents involving PV systems in countries such as the United States, Germany, and Japan. In cases where a ...

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