



Renewable energy systems

The Regulations – a reminder on notices and certificates.

Installing solar photo-voltaic (solar PV), battery or wind turbine equipment is electrical installing work in most cases.

The Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 (ELR) defines electrical installing work as 'electrical work that consists of assembling and fixing in place, altering or adding to any electrical installation or maintaining, removing or connecting to fixed wiring, any electrical equipment'.

Electrical equipment means any component or part of an electrical installation operating above extra-low voltage (ELV).

Under the ELR Regulation 19, a person carrying out such work commits an offence unless they are authorised by a licence. Further to this, Regulation 33 requires that a person must not provide business as an electrical contractor or present them self as an electrical contracting business, unless the person holds an electrical contractor's licence.

The following is considered electrical work, requiring a license to work on renewable, solar PV, battery or wind turbine installations:

- All work on the wiring, wiring enclosures, switch gear, protective gear, inverter and switchboard.
- Connecting the associated cabling, including the interconnection of the solar panels and battery cells themselves.
- The attachment and bonding of conductors to metallic structures supporting solar panels, battery racks and related equipment.

Installing the mechanical/structural components of a PV, battery or wind turbine installation is not electrical work. For example, installing foundations, fixing solar arrays to brackets, assembling arrays, securing brackets to roof structures or installing battery mounting racks is not electrical work.

Responsibilities of installers

The onsite installation of all associated wiring and equipment (for voltages above 50V AC or 120 V ripple-free DC) must be carried out by a

licensed electrician working for a licensed electrical contractor.

Providers and installers not holding an electrical contractor's licence, must ensure that all electrical installing work is carried out by a licensed electrical contractor.

Responsibilities of electrical contractors

Under the ELR, an electrical contractor must ensure that work on renewable, solar PV, battery or wind turbine installations is safe to use and that the work has been completed to a trade finish.

Electrical contractors carrying out such work must submit a Preliminary Notice and Notice of Completion to the relevant network operator (Regulations 51 and 52). Additionally, within 28 days of completing the work, electrical contractors must provide an Electrical Safety Certificate to the person for whom the work was carried out (Regulation 52B(1)).

Where these installations are performed under sub-contracts, it is the electrical contractor performing the actual installation work who is responsible for the installation's safety and to submit these notices and the certificate.

Disclaimer – The information contained in this fact sheet is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

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