



July 1, 2010

**Clarifying licensing requirements for
photovoltaic system installations**

Purpose of the rule:

This rule clarifies licensing requirements for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Specifically, this rule clarifies that an electrical license is not required for the installation of certain structural components of a PV system.

This becomes effective July 1, 2010.

Citation:

Adopt: OAR 918-282-0400

Effect of the rule:

This rule clarifies questions that have been raised about what type of license is required to perform various aspects of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. This rule ensures that solar photovoltaic (PV) requirements can be uniformly enforced across the state.

To a large extent, the rule represents the license requirements captured in ORS 479.630. For example, most of the licensing provisions for systems under 25KW are included in the limited renewable energy technician licensing statute (LRT). The rule also clarifies that an electrical license is not required for installation of purely structural components of a PV system.

Contact:

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Policy Analyst Aeron Teverbaugh at 503-373-2160, or aeron.teverbaugh@state.or.us.



Secretary of State
Certificate and Order for Filing

PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

I certify that the attached copies* are true, full and correct copies of the PERMANENT Rule(s) adopted on [Upon Filing] by the
Date prior to or same as filing date

Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division 918
Agency and Division Administrative Rules Chapter Number

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to become effective [July 1, 2010]. Rulemaking Notice was published in the [May 2010] Oregon Bulletin.**
Date upon filing or later Month and Year

RULE CAPTION

Clarifies licensing requirements for solar photovoltaic installations.

Not more than 15 words that reasonably identifies the subject matter of the agency's intended action.

RULEMAKING ACTION

List each rule number separately (000-000-0000)

Secure approval of new rule numbers (Adopted or Renumbered rules) with the Administrative Rules Unit prior to filing.

ADOPT: 918-282-0400

AMEND:

REPEAL:

RENUMBER:

AMEND & RENUMBER:

Stat. Auth.: ORS 455.117 & 479.730

Other Auth.:

Stats. Implemented: ORS 479.630 & 479.730

RULE SUMMARY

The rule clarifies the licensing requirements for installing photovoltaic (PV) systems. In general, the proposed rule restates the scope of work allowed under ORS 479.630 with regard to the limited renewable energy technician's license. The rule also clarifies that an electrical license is not required for installation of purely structural components of a PV system.

Patrick Allen

Authorized Signer
Printed name
Date

*With this original, file one photocopy of certificate, one paper copy of rules listed in Rulemaking Actions, and electronic copy of rules. **The Oregon Bulletin is published the 1st of each month and updates rules found in the OAR Compilation. For publication in Bulletin, rule and notice filings must be submitted by 5:00 pm on the 15th day of the preceding month unless this deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday, when filings are accepted until 5:00 pm on the preceding workday. ARC 930-2005

918-282-0400

Solar Licensing

The purpose of this rule is to clarify the scope of work for solar installations. It does not affect the scope of licenses established in ORS 479.630.

1. For the purposes of this rule the following definitions apply:

a. "Building Integrated" means photovoltaic (PV) cells, devices, modules, or modular materials that are integrated into the outer surface or structure of a building and serve as the outer protective surface of that building or structure, such as the roof, skylights, windows or facades.

b. "Module" means a complete, environmentally protected unit consisting of solar cells, optics, and other components, exclusive of tracker, designed to generate dc power when exposed to sunlight.

c. "Racking" means the material, supports, attachment, frame, skeleton used to attach a solar system or module to a building, structure, or ground mounting.

d. "Rack mounted PV module" means a PV module that is attached to racking.

2. Persons placing or installing structural elements, including footings, roofs, carports, racking, and building integrated PV modules are not required to possess an electrical license.

3. The following licensing requirements apply to PV system installations:

a. For PV systems not exceeding 25KW a Limited Renewable Energy Technician, General Journeyman Electrician, General Supervising Electrician or Limited Residential Electrician license is required to perform the following:

A. Installation or attachment of PV modules to racking.

B. Making electrical connections between modules, including installation of all conductors that connect to and/or interconnect all PV modules regardless of the type of electrical connection including plug-type interconnections.

C. Making electrical connections to combiner boxes and inverter(s), including installation of all conductors between arrays and combiner boxes, up to the load side of the inverter.

D. All elements of system grounding utilizing wire-type conductors on the DC side of the inverter.

b. For PV systems exceeding 25KW a General Journeyman Electrician, General Supervising Electrician or Limited Residential Electrician license is required to perform the following:

A. Installation or attachment of PV modules to racking.

B. Making electrical connections between modules, including installation of all conductors that connect to and/or interconnect all PV modules regardless of the type of electrical connection including plug-type interconnections.

C. Making electrical connections to combiner boxes and inverter(s), including installation of all conductors

between arrays and combiner boxes, up to the load side of the inverter.

D. All elements of system grounding utilizing wire-type conductors.

E. Electrical connections to building electrical system including all AC connections on the line side of the inverter(s).

Stat. Auth.: ORS 455.117 & 479.730

Stats.: Implemented: ORS 479.630 & 479.730

Hist.: NEW