

SOLAR PV MICROINVERTER/ACM STANDARD PLAN - COMPREHENSIVE

Microinverter and ACM Systems for One- and Two- Family Dwellings

SCOPE: Use this plan ONLY for systems using utility-interactive Microinverters or AC Modules (ACM) not exceeding a combined system ac inverter output rating of 10 kW on a roof of a one or two family dwelling or accessory structure. The photovoltaic system must interconnect to a single-phase ac service panel of 120/240 Vac with service panel busbar rating of 225 A or less. This plan is not intended for bipolar systems, hybrid systems, or systems that utilize storage batteries, charge controllers, or tracker or more than 4 branch circuits. Systems must be in compliance with current California Building Standards Codes and local amendments of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Other articles of the California Electrical Code (CEC) shall apply as specified in section 690.3.

MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATION SHEETS MUST BE PROVIDED for proposed inverters, modules, combiner/junction boxes and racking systems. Installation instructions for bonding and grounding equipment shall be provided and local AHJs may require additional details. Listed and labeled equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling (CEC 110.3). Equipment intended for use with PV system shall be identified and listed for the application (CEC 690.4(D)).

Applicant and Site Information

Job Address: _____ Permit #: _____

Contractor/ Engineer Name: _____ License # and Class: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Phone Number: _____

1 General Requirements and System Information

Microinverter

Number of PV modules installed: _____

Number of Microinverters installed: _____

AC Module (ACM)

Number of ACM's installed: _____

Note: Listed Alternating-Current Module (ACM) is defined in CEC 690.2 and installed per CEC 690.6

Number of Branch Circuits, 1, 2, 3, or 4: _____

Total ac system power rating = (Number of Microinverters or ACMs) * (ac inverter power output) = _____ Watts

1.1 Lowest expected ambient temperature for the location: (T_L) = _____ °C

1.2 Average ambient high temperature for the location: (T_H) = _____ °C

Provide the name of the source used to determine T_L and T_H : _____

2 Microinverter or ACM Information and Ratings

Microinverters with ungrounded dc inputs shall be installed in accordance with CEC 690.35.

Microinverter or ACM Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

2.1 Rated (continuous) ac output power: _____ Watts

2.2 Nominal ac Voltage Rating: _____ Volts

2.3 Rated (continuous) ac output current: _____ Amps

If installing ACMs, skip [STEPS 2.4 and 2.5)

2.4 Maximum dc Input Voltage Rating: _____ Volts

2.5 Maximum dc Input Current Rating: _____ Amps

2.6 Maximum dc Input Short Circuit Current Rating: _____ Amps (if provided by manufacturer)

3 PV Module Information

(If installing ACMs, skip to [STEP 6])

PV Module Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Module dc output power under standard test conditions (STC) = _____ Watts

3.1 Module V_{OC} at STC (from module nameplate): _____ Volts

3.2 Module I_{SC} at STC (from module nameplate): _____ Amps

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4 PV Module Maximum DC Voltage

(If installing ACMs, skip to [STEP 6])

Maximum dc voltage shall not exceed inverter manufacturer's maximum input voltage rating [STEP 2.4] _____ Volts. If the open-circuit voltage (V_{OC} from [STEP 3.1]) temperature coefficients (β or ϵ) are provided by the module manufacturer, use the calculation in **Method 1**. If V_{OC} temperature coefficient is not provided by the module manufacturer, use the calculation in **Method 2**.

4.1 Method 1:

V_{OC} temperature coefficient (β)= _____ %/°C

Max number of modules per inverter _____ $\times \{V_{OC} + [(T_L - 25) \times (\beta \times V_{OC}) / 100]\} =$ _____ Volts

If module manufacturer provides a voltage temperature coefficient (ϵ) in mV/°C, use the formula below.

V_{OC} temperature coefficient (ϵ)= _____ mV/°C

Max number of modules per inverter _____ $\times \{V_{OC} + [(T_L - 25) \times (\epsilon / 1000)]\} =$ _____ Volts

4.2 Method 2:

Maximum number of modules per inverter _____ $\times V_{OC}$ _____ $\times K_T =$ _____ Volts,

Where $K_T =$ _____ is a correction factor for ambient temperatures below 25 °C. See **Table 690.7**.

Verify the Low Temperature V_{OC} is less than the Microinverter maximum input voltage from [STEP 2.4]: Yes No

5 PV Short Circuit Current

(If installing ACMs, skip to [STEP 6])

5.1 Calculate the Maximum Short Circuit Current for the PV module

Adjust the PV current for peak sunlight ($\times 1.25$) and compare it to the microinverter Maximum dc Input Short Circuit Current Rating. (If Max dc Input Short Circuit Current rating is not provided by manufacturer, use $1.5 \times$ Max dc Input rating (per UL 1741)):

5.1.1 Maximum Short Circuit Current = (PV Short Circuit Current, I_{SC} , from [STEP 3.2]) $\times 1.25 =$ _____ Amps

5.1.2 Verify Maximum Short Circuit Current [STEP 5.1.1] is equal to or less than the Maximum dc Input Short Circuit Current [STEP 2.6] = _____ Amps or the Maximum dc Input Current [STEP 2.5] $\times 1.5 =$ _____ Amps

6 Branch and Combined Inverter Output Circuit Information and Calculations

Fill in [Table 1] to describe the Branch and Combined System circuits.

Circuit Power = (Number of Microinverters or ACMs) \times (Rated ac output power [STEP 2.1]) = _____ Watts

Circuit Current = (Circuit Power) / (Nominal ac voltage [STEP 2.2]) = _____ Amps

Table 1 - OCPD and Ampacity Current Calculations

	Branch 1	Branch 2	Branch 3	Branch 4	Combined Inverter Output Circuit
Number of Microinverters or ACMs					
AC Power for each unit [STEP 2.1], Watts					
Circuit Power, Watts					
Nominal ac Voltage [STEP 2.2], Volts					
Circuit Current, Amps					

7 Sizing Branch and Combined Inverter Output Circuit Conductors

Calculate the current using both **Method A** [STEP 7.1] and **Method B** [STEP 7.2] for each Branch and the Combined Inverter Output Circuit from [Table 1]. Enter the results in [Table 2].

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7.1 Method A:

7.1.1 Each Branch Circuit Current, Method A

(Number Microinverters/ACMs) * (AC power [STEP 2.1]) / (Nominal ac voltage [STEP 2.2]) x 1.25 = _____ Amps

7.1.2 Combined Inverter Output Circuit Current, Method A

(Total Number Microinverters/ACMs) * (AC power [STEP 2.1]) / (Nominal ac voltage [STEP 2.2]) x 1.25 = _____ Amps

7.2 Method B:

Number of current-carrying branch and combined output circuit conductors in each raceway: _____.

Each Raceway height above the roof: _____ inches (if not applicable indicate N/A)

The correction factors for each raceway:

$C_F =$ _____ C_F is the conduit fill coefficient found by referencing **Table 310.15(B)(3)(a)**

$C_T =$ _____ C_T is a coefficient dependent on the highest continuous ambient temperature and raceway height above roof (if applicable) and is found by referencing **Table 310.15(B)(3)(c)** and **Table 310.15(B)(2)(a)**.

7.2.1 Each Branch Circuit Current, Method B

(Number Microinverters/ACMs) * (AC power [STEP 2.1]) / (Nominal ac voltage [STEP 2.2]) / ($C_F \times C_T$) = _____ Amps

7.2.2 Combined Inverter Output Circuit Current, Method B

(Total Number Microinverters/ACMs) * (AC power [STEP 2.1]) / (Nominal ac voltage [STEP 2.2]) / ($C_F \times C_T$) = _____ Amps

7.3 Determine Conductor Size

Using the greater ampacity as calculated in **Method A** or **Method B**, use **Table 310.15(B)(16)** to identify the ac circuit conductor size. The conductor ampacity shall not exceed the ampacity of chosen conductor rated at the lowest temperature rating of any connected termination, conductor, or device (typically 60°C or 75°C).

Table 2 – Branch and Combined Circuit Currents, Correction Factors, and Conductor Sizes

	Branch 1	Branch 2	Branch 3	Branch 4	Combined Inverter Output Circuit
7.1 Method A: Branch and Combined Circuit Current					
7.2 Method B: Number of current carrying conductors for Branch and Combined Circuit Current					
7.2 Method B: Raceway height above the roof					
7.2 Method B: C_F					
7.2 Method B: C_T					
7.2 Method B: Branch and Combined Circuit Current					
Minimum Conductor Size, AWG					

8 Branch and Combined Inverter Output Circuit OCPD Size

Determine the OCPD size for each Branch Circuit and for the Combined Inverter Output Circuit. Use **CEC 690.8(B)(1)** to determine the OCPD size. Calculate the circuit current for each branch circuit. Enter the results in **[Table 3]**.

8.1.1 Each Branch Circuit Current for OCPD Sizing

(Number Microinverters/ACMs) * (AC power [STEP 2.1]) / (Nominal ac voltage [STEP 2.2]) x 1.25 = _____ Amps

8.1.2 Combined Inverter Output Circuit for OCPD Sizing

(Total Number Microinverters/ACMs) * (AC power [STEP 2.1]) / (Nominal ac voltage [STEP 2.2]) x 1.25 = _____ Amps

Size the inverter output OCPD based on the value calculated above. Where the figure is between two standard values of fuse/breaker sizes (see **CEC 240.6(A)**), the next higher size may be used provided the conductors are sufficiently sized. The OCPD's rating may not exceed the conductor ampacity or the inverter manufacturer's max OCPD rating for the inverter.

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Table 3 - Branch and Combined Inverter Output Circuit OCPD Sizing

	Branch 1	Branch 2	Branch 3	Branch 4	Combined Inverter Output Circuit
Branch and Inverter Output OCPD, Amps					

9 Solar Load Center

The sum of the ampere ratings of overcurrent devices in circuits supplying power to a busbar or conductor shall not exceed 120 percent of the rating of the busbar or conductor [CEC 705.12(D)(2)].

9.1 Solar Load center busbar rating: _____ Amps

9.2 Using [Table 3], (Sum of all inverter output Branch OCPDs) _____ Amps + (Combined Systems OCPD) _____ Amps = _____ Amps ≤ 120% of [STEP 9.1] Amps.

10 Point of Connection to Utility:

One of the following methods of interconnection must be utilized.

10.1 Supply Side Connection: Yes No

Check with your local jurisdiction to determine if this connection is allowed.

Supply side connections shall only be permitted where the service panel is listed for the purpose. The sum of the ratings of all overcurrent devices connected to power production sources shall not exceed the rating of the service. The connection shall not compromise listing or integrity of any equipment.

10.2 Load Side Connection: Yes No

Is the PV OCPD positioned at the opposite end from input feeder location or main OCPD location? Yes No

If No to the statement above, the sum of OCPD(s) supplying the panel cannot exceed 100% of the bus circle 100% as the multiplier in calculation. Otherwise, circle 120% and use that as the multiplier.

Per 705.12(D)(2): [Inverter output OCPD size [Table 3] + Main OCPD Size] ≤ [Bus size x (100% or 120%)]

Table 4 - Maximum Combined Inverter Output Circuit OCPD, CEC 705.12(D)(2)

Busbar Size (Amps)	100	125	125	200	200	200	225	225	225
Main OCPD (Amps)	100	100	125	150	175	200	175	200	225
Maximum Combined Inverter OCPD with 120% of busbar rating (Amps)	20	50	25	60†	60†	40	60†	60†	45
Maximum Combined Inverter OCPD with 100% of busbar rating (Amps)	0	25	0	50	25	0	50	25	0

† This plan limits the maximum system size to less than 10 kW, therefore the OCPD size is limited to 60 A. If the main breaker is reduced, a load calculation per Article 220 must accompany the Standard Plans to show that the reduction is allowed.

All upstream panelboard busbar ratings must also comply with CEC 705.12(D)(2).

11 Grounding and Bonding

Check one of the boxes for whether system is grounded or ungrounded: Grounded, Ungrounded.

For Microinverters with a grounded dc input, systems must follow the requirements of GEC (CEC 690.47) and EGC (CEC 690.43).

For ACM systems and Microinverters with ungrounded a dc input follow the EGC requirements of (CEC 690.43).

11.1 All Systems:

Modules and racking must be bonded by a method listed to the respective UL standard and recognized by the respective equipment manufacturers. Bonding method is subject to AHJ approval. DC and ac **equipment grounding conductor (EGC)** shall be sized based on source and output circuit conductors per 690.45 using Table 250.122. Where exposed to physical damage, it is required to be #6 AWG copper per 690.46. A dc EGC is required for both grounded and ungrounded systems. If an existing premises grounding electrode system is not present, a new grounding electrode system must be established per 250.53.

Where supplementary grounding electrodes are installed, a bonding jumper to the existing grounding electrode must be installed. Bonding jumpers must be sized to the larger grounding conductor that it is bonded to, 250.58

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11.2 Grounded Systems:

The dc **grounding electrode conductor (GEC)** from the inverter terminal must be unbroken or irreversibly spliced and sized minimum #8 AWG copper per article 250.166. The dc GEC from the inverter terminal to the existing grounding electrode system must tie to the existing grounding electrode or be bonded to the existing ac GEC using an irreversible means, per 250.64(C)(1).

A combined dc GEC and ac EGC may be run from the inverter dc grounding terminal to the grounding busbar in the associated ac equipment. This combined grounding conductor must be sized to the larger of the GEC and EGC sizes, with the bonding requirements of EGCs and remaining continuous as a GEC, per 690.47(C)(3).

11.3 Ungrounded Systems:

A dc GEC shall not be required from the inverter dc grounding terminal to the building grounding electrode system. The EGC shall run from the inverter to the grounding busbar in the associated ac equipment, sized per 690.45, using Table 250.122. Ungrounded conductors must be identified per 210.5(C). White-finished conductors are not permitted.

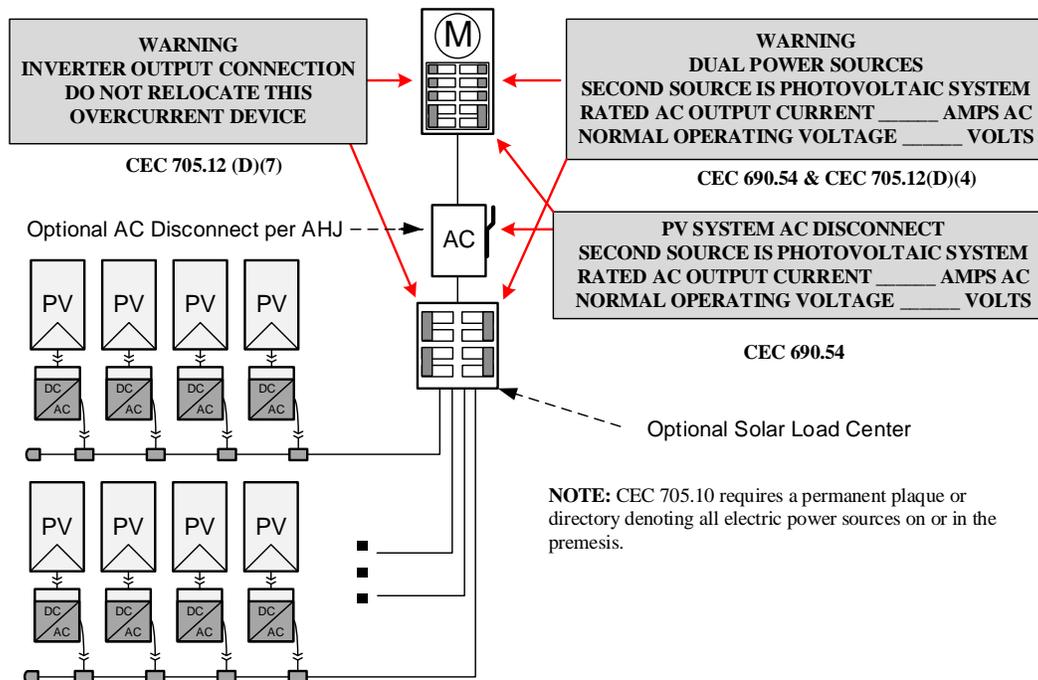
12 Markings

Per Section **CEC 690.54**, a permanent label shall be installed at an accessible location at the PV ac disconnecting means that shall indicate the following:

12.1 Rated ac Output current (total Combined System Current from **[Table 1]**) _____ Amps

12.2 Nominal Operating ac Voltage **[STEP 2.2]** _____ Volts

CEC Articles 690 and 705 and CRC Section R331 require the following labels or markings be installed at these components of the photovoltaic system:



Informational note: **ANSI Z535.4** provides guidelines for the design of safety signs and labels for application to products. A phenolic plaque with contrasting colors between the text and background would meet the intent of the code for permanency. No type size is specified, but 20 point (3/8") should be considered the minimum.

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13 Single-Inverter Line Diagram

Equipment Schedule	
△ TAG	DESCRIPTION: (provide model number and description)
1	Solar PV Module or ACM:
2	Microinverter (if not ACM):
3	Junction Box(es):
4	Solar Load Center, Yes / No:
5	Performance Meter, Yes / No:
6	*Utility External Disconnect Switch Yes / No:
7	Main Electrical Service Panel

Single-Line Diagram for Microinverters or ACMs

Check a box for dc system grounding: Grounded, Ungrounded
 For ungrounded dc power systems, EGC is required
 For grounded dc power systems, GEC & EGC are required
 Refer to CEC 250.120 for EGC installation & Table 250.122 for sizing

* Consult with your local AHJ and /or Utility

Conductor, Cable and Conduit Schedule					
□ TAG	Description and Conductor Type: (Table 2)	Conductor Size	Number of Conductors	Conduit/ Conductor/ Cable Type	Conduit Size
A	Current-Carrying Conductors: (for each branch circuit)				
	EGC:				
	GEC (when required):				
B	Current-Carrying Conductors:				
	EGC:				
	GEC (when required):				