

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Eligibility Criteria and Conditions for Solar Energy System Incentives (SB1)
TN #:	228876
Document Title:	Notice to Consider Adoption of Revisions to the Guidelines for California's Solar Electric Incentive Programs, SB 1, 7th Ed
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 1/19)



IN THE MATTER OF:

***Eligibility Criteria and Conditions
for Solar Energy System
Incentives (SB 1)***

Docket No. 07-SB-01

Notice of Business Meeting
RE: Solar Equipment Lists

Notice to Consider Adoption of Revisions to the *Guidelines for California’s Solar Electric Incentive Programs (Senate Bill 1), Seventh Edition*

The California Energy Commission will conduct a Business Meeting on:

**Monday, July 15, 2019
10:00 AM**

**Warren-Alquist State Energy Building
1516 Ninth Street
Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room
Sacramento, California 95814
(Wheelchair Accessible)**

Remote access is available by computer or phone via WebEx.™
(Instructions below.)

As part of the July 15, 2019 Business Meeting, the Energy Commission will consider adopting staff’s recommendation to revise requirements in the *Guidelines for California’s Solar Electric Incentive Programs (Senate Bill 1), Seventh Edition* (SB 1 Guidelines) concerning accreditation criteria for third-party Photovoltaic module performance testing laboratories.

Background

Senate Bill 1 (Murray, Chapter 132, Statutes of 2006) requires the Energy Commission to establish eligibility criteria, conditions for incentives, and rating standards for projects applying for ratepayer-funded incentives for solar energy systems. The initial SB 1 Guidelines were adopted in December 2007, and have been updated periodically to address program modifications and market developments. In 2018, the SB 1 Guidelines were most recently revised to implement changes to equipment testing standards and criteria.

The *Guidelines for California's Solar Electric Incentive Programs (Senate Bill 1)*, *Seventh Edition*, is available on the Energy Commission's website at:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/new-solar-homes-partnership-program-nshp/eligibility-criteria-and>

Chapter III, Section A and Appendix B, Section A of the 7th Edition SB 1 Guidelines require PV module equipment to be tested by a third-party test laboratory with accreditation that includes the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard, IEC 61215:2005 version and/or IEC 61646:2008 version. Due to a 2016 revision of the IEC 61215 standard, national accreditation bodies are no longer accrediting third-party test laboratories to the 2005 version. Additionally, IEC 61646 was incorporated into the 2016 version of IEC 61215, and IEC 61646 was subsequently withdrawn. Therefore, at this time only IEC 61215:2016 version is available for accreditation.

Purpose

With the aforementioned changes to third-party laboratory accreditation, new test laboratories are unable to meet the requirements of the SB 1 Guidelines due to the inability to receive accreditation under the IEC 61215:2005 and/or IEC 61646:2008. Additionally, currently accredited test laboratories will lose their accreditation to the IEC 61215:2005 and/or IEC 61646:2008 versions when seeking re-accreditation.

Accreditation to any currently available IEC 61215 and/or IEC 61646 version will evidence a sufficient level of technical competence and align the SB 1 requirements with current international oversight protocols. Therefore, specifying a year when referencing IEC 61215 and/or IEC 61646 accreditation is unnecessary and will exclude otherwise qualifying testing laboratories. Staff is recommending that the accreditation requirement for third-party test laboratories for PV module performance be revised to omit the particular version year of the referenced IEC standards. If this revision is made, instead of Chapter III, Section A and Appendix B, Section A of the 7th Edition SB 1 Guidelines requiring test laboratory accreditation scope that includes "IEC 61215:2005 and/or IEC 61646:2008", the requirement shall be for a scope that includes "IEC 61215 and/or IEC 61646." The proposed update for each section referenced is provided in Attachment A to this notice. This revision will not change or impact testing standards, including PV-module performance testing standards.

If adopted, these revisions will become effective immediately, and will subsequently be incorporated into the next revision of the SB 1 Guidelines.

Public Comment

The Energy Commission encourages public comments on the proposed revisions to the SB 1 Guidelines, Seventh Edition, pertaining to accreditation requirements for third-party PV module test laboratories.

Oral comments. The Energy Commission will accept oral comments during the Business Meeting. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker. Any comments will become part of the public record for this proceeding.

Written comments. Written comments must be submitted to the Docket Unit by **5:00 p.m. on July 9, 2019**. Written comments will also be accepted at the Business Meeting; however, the Energy Commission may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the meeting.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g. address, phone number, email address) become part of the viewable public record. This information may also become available via any internet search engine.

The Energy Commission encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=07-SB-01>, which links to the comment page for this docket. Select or enter a proceeding to be taken to the “Add Comment” page. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the “Comment Text” box or attached as a downloadable, searchable in Microsoft® Word (.doc, .docx) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf) file. Maximum file size is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include the docket number **07-SB-01** and **Eligibility Criteria and Conditions for Solar Energy System Incentives (SB 1)** in the subject line and send to docket@energy.ca.gov.

If preferred, a paper copy may be sent to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 07-SB-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission’s Public Adviser’s Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. For information on how to participate in this forum, please contact Acting Public Adviser Jennifer Martin-Gallardo, at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov, (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228.

Please direct requests for reasonable accommodation to Yolanda Rushin at yolanda.rushin@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4310 at least five days in advance.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

Questions on the subject matter of this meeting, should be directed to Abtin Mehrshahi at Abtin.Mehrshahi@energy.ca.gov or (916) 653-3024.

Remote Attendance

WebEx is the Energy Commission's online meeting service. When attending remotely, presentations will appear on your computer/laptop/mobile device screen, and audio may be heard via the device or telephone. Please be aware that the WebEx meeting may be recorded. WebEx technical support is available at 1-866-229-3239.

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Availability of Documents

Documents for this item will be available online at:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=07-SB-01>.

Date: June 26, 2019, at Sacramento, CA

Mail Lists:

SolarEquipment, Renewable, GoSolar, NSHP, PVCulator listserv

Attachment A

Notice to Consider Adoption of Revisions to the *Guidelines for California's Solar Electric Incentive Programs (Senate Bill 1), Seventh Edition*

Proposed changes to CHAPTER III, Section A are highlighted below:

- Additional testing for performance-related characteristics shall be conducted to specific subsections of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Standard 61215:2005 or IEC 61646:2008 (depending on the type of PV module). This testing shall be conducted by a laboratory with accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 from an accreditation body that has signed the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA), and that has an accreditation scope that includes IEC 61215:2005 and/or IEC 61646:2008.^[1] If comparable data become available, in accordance with different standards, that support program administrators' minimum data requirements, the Energy Commission may replace this requirement with the optional requirement outlined in the bullet below.

Proposed changes to Appendix B, Section A are highlighted below:

Additional testing shall be conducted to specific subsections of IEC Standard 61215, *Crystalline silicon terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval* (second edition, April 2005) or IEC Standard 61646, *Thin-film terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval* (second edition, May 2008), except as specified in Note 3 of Table B.1 below. The additional testing shall be conducted by a laboratory with accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 from an accreditation body that has signed the ILAC MRA and with an accreditation scope that includes IEC 61215:2005 and/or IEC 61646:2008.

[1] A laboratory within or outside the United States may be used to conduct this additional testing.