



**ICC Los Angeles Basin Chapter and Ventura Region Chapter  
Joint Inspection Committee  
“Small Solar System One-Inspection Process Bulletin Program”**



**Preface**

Solar photovoltaic electrical technology and legislative laws are transcending current building codes. In January of 2015 in response to California Assembly Bill 2188, the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Basin Chapter and the Ventura Region Chapter of ICC directed their respective Inspection Committees (“Joint Inspection Committee”) to analyze the inspection challenges known to be looming. In response to the direction the Committee created the “Small Solar System One-Inspection Process Bulletin Program.” The program is a series of documents related to proven successful practices and useful information regarding the single inspection process of small solar photovoltaic electrical systems.

The Joint Inspection Committee recommends that the Board of Directors recognize the program and make the document/s available on the Chapters websites. Building Departments within the Los Angeles Basin and Ventura Region should also be encouraged to support the program and post the documents on their websites as well.

**Acknowledgements**

Each and every joint inspection committee member should be commended for their review of the draft and final documents. In addition, the tremendous efforts and contributions of the Solar Energy Action Committee (SEAC), which was formulated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division, should be commended. The Chairman of the Joint Inspection Committee is an active member of SEAC and this bulletin program gleans much of their positive work. To date, four “issue statements” created by SEAC are supported by the Joint Inspection Committee and are part of this bulletin program. The Joint Inspection Committee also shares SEAC’s message which is as follows:

“The State of California has an aggressive solar energy growth plan. With these goals in mind, a diverse group of professionals has been gathered to form the Solar Energy Action Committee (“SEAC”). SEACs mission is to assist the solar industry by outlining available solutions to provide a transparent roadmap for achieving a code compliant and efficient solar installation.”



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**Acknowledgements Continued**

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### Program Overview

The “Small Solar System - One Inspection Process - Bulletin Program” is a series of bulletins that describe proven recommended practices and useful information<sup>1</sup> in response to “Assembly Bill 2188” - California Government Code Section 65850.5 (h). The program is limited to expedited permitting for small solar photovoltaic “PV” electrical energy systems. The program is intended to benefit any stakeholder of the electrical solar photovoltaic industry.

What is considered a small solar photovoltaic electrical energy system (small PV system)? It’s a system with an alternate current nameplate rating of 10 kilowatts or less and the solar panels are on the roof of a single or duplex family home. The passage of Government Code Section 65850.5 (h) which is the genesis of this program is as follows:

“For a small residential rooftop solar energy system eligible for expedited review, **only one inspection shall be required**, which shall be done in a timely manner and may include a consolidated inspection, except that a separate fire safety inspection may be performed in a city, county, or city and county that does not have an agreement with a local fire authority to conduct a fire safety inspection on behalf of the fire authority. If a small residential rooftop solar energy system fails inspection, a subsequent inspection is authorized, however the subsequent inspection need not conform to the requirements of this subdivision.”

For the “Single Combination Inspection” of a small PV system, if the inspector has a recognized standard plan, the California Solar Guidebook tool Kit No. 7 (19 point inspection checklist and comprehensive inspection reference), and most importantly, an understanding of the intent of the new law and the primary California Building Codes, the Joint Inspection Committee believes that to be the best strategy for the successful and efficient performance of the single inspection. These bulletins can be used in a variety of ways to build an inspectors confidence level related to the aforementioned. These bulletins can also stand alone as separate useful informational documents; however, the advantages of the program as a whole are most useful after attending a related training session.

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<sup>1</sup> New bulletins may be added and existing bulletins may be updated from time to time. New or revised bulletins will be reflected with the word “revised” and new date in the footer of the impacted bulletin.