



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



**Bulletin 2 – How and when to utilize photographs – work concealed without observations or otherwise difficult to view.**

A very good alternative to confirm criteria within difficult to access areas or areas that are obscured for close viewing, is to utilize photographs. Photographs should be used as an inspection aid – they should not be used to substitute for an on-site inspection.

Many proactive contractors are photo documenting all aspects of their installations for their own quality control and protection against customer claims at a later date. These photographs, and or on the spot photographs requested to be taken by the building inspector, can prove a valuable time saver for both the building inspector and the contractor.

The law is clear - only one-single inspection shall be provided. An AHJ should not encourage the contractor to provide a “rough inspection” under any circumstance. A building inspector should not conveniently “drop in” on a project site while the contractor is in the process of installing a small PV system. The aforementioned introduces a potential allegation of misfeasance or malfeasance and allegations are tremendously uncomfortable.

Malfeasance - the performance of an act that is legally unjustified, harmful, or contrary to law

Misfeasance - the wrongful performance of a normally lawful act

Nonfeasance - the omission of some act that ought to have been performed

Invasive or destructive methods requested by the inspector (such as removing PV panels or roofing tiles) are a disservice. Moreover, the California Building Codes do not mandate a building inspector confirm the installations to the extent of such detail. In example, requesting roofing tile and or a PV panel to be removed to confirm quality control of a roof penetration is not required by either by the California Electrical Code or the California Residential Code. More specifically:

“CRC Section 905.3.3 –Underlayment Inspection **Is Not** Required.”

“CRC Section 905.3.8 –Roof Flashing Inspection **Is Not** Required.”

Again, a very good alternative to confirm criteria within difficult to access areas, or areas that are obscured for close viewing, or areas concealed by construction is to utilize photographs. See Bulletin 7 section 6 for reasonable photo guidelines and Bulletin 4 regarding access to roofs.

