



South Central Regional Construction Code Council

5058 W. Main Street Houma, Louisiana 70360
P.O. Box 1870, Gray, Louisiana 70359
Toll Free at 1-866-95-PERMIT or (985) 655-1070

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RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

Permit Plan Submittal & Code Requirements

Applicable Building Codes:

IRC	2012 International Residential Code
IRC	2015 International Residential Code Section 324 "Solar Energy Systems"
NEC	2011 National Electrical Code (Excluding Article 690)
NEC	2014 National Electrical Code Article 690 "Solar Photovoltaic Systems"
ICC 600	2008 ICC Standard for Residential Construction in High-Wind Regions
WFCM	2012 Wood Frame Construction Manual for One and Two Family Dwellings

___ Electrical Plans with the following shall be included:

- a. ___ Location of main service or utility disconnect [NEC 80.21(Annex H)];
- b. ___ Total number of modules, number of modules per string and the total number of strings [NEC 80.21 (Annex H)];
- c. ___ Make and model of inverter(s) and/or combiner box if used [NEC 690.4(B)];
- d. ___ One-line diagram of system [NEC 215.5];
- e. ___ Specify grounding/bonding, conductor type and size, conduit type and size and number of conductors in each section of conduit [NEC 80.21 (Annex H)];
- f. ___ If batteries are to be installed include them in the diagram and show their locations and venting;
- g. ___ Equipment cut sheets including inverters, modules, AC and DC disconnects and combiners [NEC 80.21 (Annex H)];
- h. ___ Labeling of equipment as required by NEC Sections 690 and 705 [NEC 110.3(B)];
- i. ___ Site diagram showing the arrangement of panels on the roof or ground, north arrow, lot dimensions, and the distance from property lines to adjacent buildings/structures (existing and proposed) [NEC 80.21(Annex H)];
- j. ___ Plans shall include, up until September 1st 2015, an approved manual disconnect located within 5 feet of the array structure to disconnect all DC conductors from the power source. Upon September 1st 2015, "Rapid Shutdown of PV systems on Buildings" per NEC 2014 Article 690.12 shall be applicable as follows:
 - ___ Requirements for controlled conductors shall apply only to PV system conductors of more than 5ft in length inside a building, or more than 10ft from a PV array;
 - ___ Controlled conductors shall be limited to not more than 30 volts and 240 volt-amperes within 10 seconds of rapid shutdown initiation;
 - ___ Voltage an power shall be measured between any two conductors and between any conductor and ground;
 - ___ The rapid shutdown initiation methods shall be labeled in accordance with 690.56(B);
 - ___ Equipment that performs the rapid shutdown shall be listed and identified.

___ Structural analysis by a "Licensed Engineer" shall be provided for solar panels, components and their loading on existing and new roofs. [LSUCCC Amend 2015 IRC 324.7.2]

___ Structural Plans and/or analysis shall include the following:

- a. ___ The type of roof covering and (if existing) the number of roofing layers installed;

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- b. ___ Type of roof framing, size of members and spacing;
- c. ___ Weight of panels, support locations and method of attachment;
- d. ___ Framing plan and details for any work necessary to strengthen the existing roof structure;
- e. ___ Any relevant calculations (when required);
- f. ___ Location of PV equipment on the building;
- g. ___ Where an approved racking system is used, provide documentation showing the manufacturer of the rack system, maximum allowable weight the system can support, attachment method to the roof or ground and product evaluation information or structural design for the rack system.

___ Roof Plan showing location of Modules/panels and;

___ Roof Plan with marked location of all adjacent openings such that roof access points are located in areas that do not require the placement of ground ladders over openings such as windows or doors and located at strong points of building construction in locations where the access point does not conflict with overhead obstructions such as tree limbs, wires or signs [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7.1] - OR -

___ Elevation drawing or photo depicting opening location in wall in reference to location of on-roof module placements depicting compliance with “Roof Access Points” per 2015 IRC 324.7.1 [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7.1]

___ Size of PV array (max 150’ x 150’); multiple arrays shall be separated by a clear access pathway not less than 3-foot in width [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7.2.1]

___ Hip roof layout: 3-foot clear access pathway from eave to ridge on each roof slope where panels and modules are located [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7.2.2] (Exception: N/A where roof slope is 2:12 or less)

___ Single-Ridge Roofs (Gables only): Minimum of two 3-foot clear access pathways from eave to ridge on each roof slope where panels or modules are located [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7.2.3] (Exception: N/A where roof slope is 2:12 or less)

___ Roofs with hips and valleys: PV panels/modules shall not be closer than 18 inches of hips or valleys where panels/modules are located on both sides of a hip or valley. No restrictions when panels/modules placed on only one side of the hip or valley [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7.2.4] (Exception: N/A where roof slope is 2:12 or less)

___ Smoke Ventilation Requirements: PV panels/modules shall not be less than 3 feet from ridge to allow for fire department smoke ventilation operations [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7.2.5]

___ Note: Roof Access Pathway requirements are not applicable for detached garages and accessory structures such as parking shade structures, carports, solar trellises and similar structures [LSUCCC Add 2015 IRC 324.7].