



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

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**NEVADA COUNTY
BUILDING DEPARTMENT POLICY**

Subject:	Building Department interpretation of 2013 California Building Code sections 1505.8 & 1505.9 in relation to roof mounted solar photovoltaic installations	Policy #:	BD-CI-14-001
Original Policy:	January 14, 2014	Last Revised:	N/A

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1. Purpose & Background:

The 2013 California Building Code was adopted and required by the state to be enforced by all California Building Departments as of January 1, 2014. The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification to Building Department staff regarding the interpretation of 2013 California Building Code (CBC) sections 1505.8 and 1505.9. This policy is also regarding the interpretation of CBC sections 1505.8 and 1505.9 and how they relate to Nevada County Land Use Code Chapter V, section L-V 3.12. The aforementioned CBC code sections are new additions to the California Building Code. The code language is shown below for each applicable section:

*“1505.8 **Building integrated photovoltaic systems.** Rooftop installed building integrated photovoltaic systems that serve as the roof covering shall be listed and labeled for fire classification in accordance with Section 1505.1.”*

*“1505.9 **Photovoltaic panels and modules.** Rooftop mounted photovoltaic systems shall be tested, listed and identified with a fire classification in accordance with UL 1703. The fire classification shall comply with Table 1505.1 based on the type of construction of the building.”*

*“L-V 3.12 **Section 1505.1: Fire Classification (change to read as follows):***

The roof covering or roofing assembly on any structure regulated by this Code, unless specifically exempted, shall be listed Class A, as classified in Section 1505.1.

The roof covering assembly includes the roof deck, underlayment, interlayment, insulation and covering, which is assigned a roof covering classification.”

2013 CBC Table 1505.1 shown below for reference:

TABLE 1505.1
 MINIMUM ROOF COVERING
 CLASSIFICATION FOR TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION

IA	IB	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IV	VA	VB
B	B	B	C	B	C	B	B	C

a. Unless otherwise required in accordance with Chapter 7A.

2. Definitions:

The definitions shown below are referenced from the 2013 California Building, Fire and Electrical Codes. The definitions are shown for reference purposes in relation to the interpretation of this policy:

Building Integrated Photovoltaic Systems:

Photovoltaic cells, devices, modules, or modular materials that are integrated into the outer surface or structure of a building and serve as the outer protective/weather resistive surface of that building

Photovoltaic Module:

A complete, environmentally protected unit consisting of solar cells, optics and other components exclusive of tracker, designed to generate dc power when exposed to sunlight.

Roof Covering:

The covering applied to the roof deck for weather resistance, fire classification or appearance.

Roof Covering Assembly:

A weather resistive assembly that includes but not limited to the roof deck, underlayment, interlayment, insulation and covering which is assigned a roof covering classification.

Rooftop Mounted Photovoltaic Systems:

Photovoltaic cells, devices, modules, or modular materials that are not integrated into the roof covering or roof covering assembly that provides weather resistance for the structure. These systems are primarily mounted to an existing weatherized roofing envelope and do not serve any purpose for the weatherization of the building.

3. Policy:

All solar photovoltaic installations completed on or after January 1, 2014 shall comply with the code requirements shown in 2013 California Building Code sections 1505.8 and 1505.9. All Rooftop Mounted Photovoltaic Systems shall have a fire classification as shown per CBC table 1505.1 based on the building type of construction.

Examples:

- A type IIA constructed building would require a minimum class B listed/rated solar Photovoltaic Module.
- A type VB or IIIB constructed building would require a minimum class C listed/rated solar Photovoltaic Module.

All newly installed Building Integrated Photovoltaic Systems installed on or after January 1, 2014 shall have a minimum Class A rating per Nevada County Land Use Code Section L-V 3.12 unless specifically exempted.

4. Plan Submittal & Review Procedures:

The project applicant shall indicate the minimum module fire classification on the submitted sets of plans; the applicant shall also follow the Residential Solar Photovoltaic System Submittal handout for residential installations. For commercial installations additional information may be required to be submitting depending on the proposed installation. The Permit Processing Technician and/or Plans Examiner shall verify that this has been completed on the plans prior to building permit issuance.

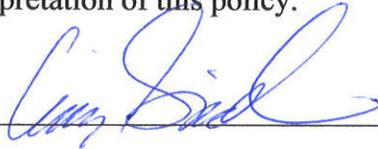
5. Building Inspection Procedures:

At time of final inspection of the photovoltaic solar installation the Building Inspector shall verify that the minimum classification of the solar Photovoltaic Modules meet the minimum classification requirements per the type of building construction.

6. Policy Interpretation:

The Director of Building and/or approved building department designee shall have the authority for the interpretation of this policy.

Approved: _____



Date: _____



Craig Griesbach
Director of Building

Policy initiated and approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Building

Attachments:

- Residential Solar Photovoltaic System Plan Submittal Requirements Handout
- 2013 California Fire Code Residential Solar Setback Requirements Handout