

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Installation and safety requirements for
photovoltaic (PV) arrays**



AS/NZS 5033:2012

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee EL-042, Renewable Energy Power Supply Systems and Equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 24 May 2012 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 26 June 2012. This Standard was published on 16 July 2012.

The following are represented on Committee EL-042:

Australian Industry Group
Australian Solar Energy Society
Clean Energy Council
Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association
CSIRO Energy Technology
Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council
Electrical Safety Organisation, New Zealand
Electricity Engineers Association, New Zealand
ElectroComms and Energy Utilities Industries Skills Council
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 11001.

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Installation and safety requirements for photovoltaic (PV) arrays

Originated as AS/NZS 5033:2005.
Second edition 2012.
Reissued incorporating Amendment No. 1 (June 2013).
Reissued incorporating Amendment No. 2 (July 2013).

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Jointly published by SAI Global Limited under licence from Standards Australia Limited, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001 and by Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington 6140.

ISBN 978 1 74342 201 4

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EL-042, Renewable Energy Power Supply Systems and Equipment, to supersede AS/NZS 5033:2005, *Installation of photovoltaic (PV) arrays*.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (June 2013) and Amendment No. 2 (July 2013). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

At the time of publication there was very limited technology for arc detection and prevention in PV arrays and there were no standards for arc signatures. When this technology is available there will be a revision of this Standard, which will require the use of this technology for PV arrays.

Many new protection features for arrays when used in grid connected applications will be implemented in inverter systems and are required by the International Standard for inverters—IEC 62109-2, Ed. 1.0 (2011), *Safety of power converters for use in photovoltaic power systems—Part 2: Particular requirements for inverters*. Both this Standard and AS 4777, *Grid connection of energy systems via inverters* (series) require inverters that comply with IEC 62109-2 for grid connected PV systems.

There are many changes in requirements in this revision. They include but are not limited to—

- (a) changes in voltage and power limits; requirements for earthing of frames of LV systems;
- (b) earth fault protection requirements;
- (c) requirements for multiple input power conditioners;
- (d) changes to load breaking switch requirements;
- (e) changes in calculations of maximum voltage ratings and overcurrent protection requirements;
- (f) requirements for PV cables, cable protection and conduit; connector requirements; and
- (g) new signs and commissioning requirements.

This Standard necessarily deals with existing types of systems, but is not intended to discourage innovation or to exclude materials equipment and methods that may be developed in the future. Revisions will be made from time to time in view of such developments, and amendments to this edition will be made when necessary.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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