



Sustainable Integration of Renewable Energy Sources (Solar PV) with SEC Distribution Network Low Voltage and Medium Voltage

*Technical Standards for the Connection of small-scale solar PV systems
to the LV and MV Distribution Networks of SEC*

Version 3.2

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONNECTION OF SMALL-SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS

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1 SCOPE

This document provides a common set of requirements for Small-Scale Solar PV (Photovoltaic) Systems which intend to operate in parallel with the LV & MV distribution networks of Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). These requirements shall be fulfilled regardless the presence of loads in the Consumer's installation. Especially the document defines:

- Requirements for the equipment to be used for the interconnection of a Small-Scale Solar PV System with the distribution network;
- Requirements to support the frequency and voltage stability of the power system when it is subject to disturbances;
- Requirements for the start-up, the operation and the disconnection of the Small-Scale Solar PV Systems;
- Requirements to prevent the Small-Scale Solar PV Systems from causing disturbances and damages either to the distribution network and to the other Consumers connected to the same distribution network;
- Requirements to prevent the Small-Scale Solar PV Systems from operating in parallel with a portion of the distribution network which has been disconnected on purpose from the main power system.

The present document is not incompatible with additional requirements set out by other national & international standards, network codes or specific technical requirements of SEC, and which may apply for the connection of a Small-Scale Solar PV System.

In particular these are

- Electricity & Cogeneration Regulatory Authority (ECRA) – Small-Scale Solar PV Systems Regulations - ERD-TA-012 (v.02/19) (in this document referred to as “ECRA Regulations”), and
- The Saudi Arabian Distribution Code – Issue 01 – Revision 00 – November 2008 and amendments in force until 12/2017 (in this document referred to as “Distribution Code”)

The Distribution Code is applicable to all users of the distribution system and still represents the main technical document to refer to for the connection of a new Consumer or for the modification of the connection of an existing Consumer. The present Technical Standards shall apply in case the new installation (or the modified one) includes a Small-Scale Solar PV System as defined in ECRA Regulations and shall be intended as an extension of the Distribution Code for what not directly ruled by the code itself. For all the aspects not covered by the present document, reference shall be made to the Distribution Code.

It is not within the scope of the present document to:

- define the process to be followed for the selection and evaluation of the Connection Point;
- define the process to be followed for the assessment of the impact of connecting Small-Scale Solar PV Systems to SEC distribution network;
- define the process to be followed for the assessment of a connection application and its compliance with the present standards.

This information can be found in other companion documents, as listed in 3.

Finally, it is not under the purpose of these standards to define technical rules for the off-grid operation of networks in isolated (e.g. rural) areas, where no part of SEC distribution network is involved.

Unless otherwise explicitly specified, the requirements set forth by the present standards apply to new Small-Scale Solar PV Systems, i.e. to those Small-Scale Solar PV Systems which do not have already been approved by SEC at the date of publication of the standards.

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Finally, even if it is not directly within the scope of the present standards, it is important to stress and remind the fundamental importance and necessity for these systems to be built in a workmanlike manner, which means the use of products and their assembly in accordance with the national and international standards commonly used for the planning, design, installation, operation and maintenance of Solar PV Systems.

As regards the Service Conditions, the equipment/material used for the Small Scale Solar PV Systems shall be suitable for operating at their standard ratings under the usual service condition in the inland, desert or coastal areas environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Typical service conditions for the KSA are indicated in ANNEX D.

1.1 Notice to users

This document is for use of employees of SEC, Consumers, Consultants, Contractors and Manufacturers. Users of this guideline should consult all applicable laws and regulations. Users are responsible for observing or referring to the applicable regulatory requirements. SEC does not, by the publication of its standards, intend to urge action that is not in compliance with applicable laws, and these documents may not be construed as doing so.

Users should be aware that this document may be superseded at any time by the issuance of new editions or may be amended from time to time through the issuance of amendments, corrigenda, or errata. These Technical Standards at any point in time consist of the current edition of the document together with any amendments, corrigenda, or errata then in effect. All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this document, uploaded on SEC website.

Finally, the user shall refer to Saudi Building Code – Section 401 - Chapter 712, as well as to applicable SASO Standards or International Standards mentioned in these SEC documents, unless differently indicated in other SEC documents related to Small-Scale Solar PV Systems Regulations.

1.2 SEC Limitation of Liability and Consumer's undertaking

SEC disclaims liability for any personal injury, property or other damage, of any nature whatsoever, whether special, indirect, consequential, or compensatory, directly or indirectly resulting from the connection point. Consumers are responsible for observing or referring to the applicable laws and regulatory requirements.

It is the responsibility of the Consumer to determine that the interconnection equipment's specifications and confirmed performance satisfy the technical needs of the SEC system and to be compatible with the present and any other applicable SEC standards. SEC standards are indispensable for the solar PV application. All equipment in an installation connected to SEC system shall be designed, manufactured, tested and installed in accordance with all applicable statutory obligations and shall conform to the relevant SEC standards current at the time of the connection of the installation to SEC system.

The Consumer shall undertake to comply with the following:

- Arrange all necessary requirements and systems to connect small scale solar PV system to SEC system including compliance with security and safety requirements, and providing necessary equipment.
- Terms and conditions of offer to connection, connection agreement, connection conditions, and any other relevant requirement adopted by SEC.
- Not to exceed the authorized Maximum Connected Capacity for exporting to SEC system.

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- Not to conduct any action impacting the safety and efficiency of SEC system.
- Cooperate with SEC staff in all matters related to electricity exported to the system.
- All costs associated with the connection of a small scale solar PV system to SEC system shall be borne by the Consumer.
- Any excess electricity generated by the Small-Scale Solar PV System above the electricity consumed in the Consumer's premises shall be exported to SEC system in accordance with the provisions of the connection agreement.
- If there is a risk for the safety or the security of the system and the public electricity network, SEC is entitled to either disconnect or to require immediate disconnection of the Small-Scale Solar PV System from the system.

2 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- [1] Small-Scale Solar PV Systems Regulations - Electricity & Cogeneration Regulatory Authority (ECRA) – ERD-TA-012 (v.02/19) (in this document referred to as “ECRA Regulations”)
- [2] The Saudi Arabian Distribution Code – Issue 01 – Revision 00 – November 2008 and successive in force amendments (2011) (in this document referred to as “Distribution Code”)
- [3] The Saudi Arabian Distribution Code – Issue 03 – Revision 02 – October 2018 (in this document referred to as “Grid Code”)
- [4] The Saudi Building Code Electrical Requirements (SBC401) – 2007
- [5] SASO IEC 62116:2017, Utility-interconnected photovoltaic inverters - Test procedure of islanding prevention measures
- [6] IEC 61000-3-2:2014 Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 3-2: Limits – Limits for harmonic current emissions (equipment input current ≤ 16 A per phase)
- [7] IEC 61000-3-12:2011 Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 3-12: Limits - Limits for harmonic currents produced by equipment connected to public low-voltage systems with input current >16 A and ≤ 75 A per phase
- [8] IEC 61000-13-15:2011 table -7. Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 3-12: Limits - Limits for harmonic currents produced by equipment connected to public low-voltage systems with input current >16 A and ≤ 75 A per phase
- [9] IEC/TR 61000-3-15:2009, Assessment of low frequency electromagnetic immunity and emission requirements for dispersed generation systems in LV network
- [10] SASO IEC 62109-1:2017 – Safety of power converters for use in photovoltaic power systems - Part 1: General requirements
- [11] SASO IEC 62109-2:2012 – Safety of power converters for use in photovoltaic power systems - Part 2: Particular requirements for inverters.
- [12] DS3: Rate of Change of Frequency (ROCOF) Workstream, EirGrid 2011.
- [13] STANDARDS FOR DISTRIBUTED RENEWABLE RESOURCES GENERATORS CONNECTED TO THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, DEWA 2016.

3 COMPANION DOCUMENTS

The documents listed hereinafter have to be considered a compendium of the current document. Therefore, they should be carefully read in addition to this.

- a) Guidelines for Consumers, Consultants and Contractors to connect a Small-Scale Solar PV System to SEC distribution network
- b) Inspection and Testing Guidelines

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- c) Inspection and Testing Checklist
- d) Safety related to the installation of the Solar PV systems
- e) PV on buildings and safety
- f) Best Practice for Designing a PV system
- g) Manual for the Maintenance of the Solar PV Systems

4 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Active Power - Active Power is the real component of the apparent power, expressed in watts or multiples thereof (e.g. kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW)). In the text this will be generically referred as P or P_{nom} in case of nominal active power of equipment.

Apparent Power - Is the product of voltage (in Volt) and current (in Ampere). It is usually expressed in kiloVolt-Ampere (kVA) or MegaVolt-Ampere (MVA) and consists of a real component (Active Power) and an imaginary component (Reactive Power). In the text this will be generically referred as S or S_n in case of rated apparent power of equipment.

Auxiliary Supply Power – Electricity supply to auxiliary systems and services such as Interface Protection or circuit breaker and contactor opening coils.

Maximum Available Active Power Output – Is the Active Power Output determined by the primary resource (for example, sun irradiance) and by the maximum steady-state efficiency of the Solar PV System for this operating point.

Connection Point – The physical point at which Consumer's Plant or apparatus is joined to the SEC Distribution System.

Consumer – Any Person supplied with electricity services for his own consumption. In this context, this term will also be used to refer to a User owning a Small-Scale Solar PV System. This term has also the same meaning of Customer, as defined in the Distribution Code. As per ECRA Regulations, a Consumer is considered Eligible when it meets both the requirement of the same Regulations and the Connection Conditions as defined in the Distribution Code.

Delay time (of a protection relay) – Indicates the minimum duration of a fault detected by the protection relay before the output of the protection relay is triggered.

Distribution System / Network – The system which consists of electric lines, electric plant, transformers and switchgear and which is used for conveying electricity to final Customers / Consumers. It can be either a Medium or Low Voltage system; for the scope of the present document and in accordance with international standards:

- A Low Voltage (LV) Distribution System is a network with nominal voltage lower than 1kV AC or 1.5 kV DC. The LV Distribution System nominal voltages in KSA are 400/230V, 380/220V and 220/127V.
- A Medium Voltage (MV) Distribution System is a network with nominal voltage included in the range from 1kV AC up to 36 kV. The MV Distribution System nominal voltages in KSA are 13.8 and 33kV.

For avoidance of doubt, the term Distribution Network will be preferred in this document in place of Distribution System.

Interface Protection (IP) - The electrical protection required to ensure that either the Solar PV System and/or any Solar PV Unit is disconnected for any event that could impair the integrity or degrade the safety and reliability of the distribution network.

Islanding - Situation where a portion of the distribution network, containing generating plants, becomes physically disconnected from the rest of the distribution network and one or more generating plants maintain a supply of electrical energy to such isolated part of the distribution network.

Loss Of Mains (LOM) – Represents an operating condition in which a distribution network, or part of it, is on purpose or in case of fault separated from the main power system with the final scope of de-energization. This denotes also the protection which detects this condition and it is also known as anti-islanding.

Main Meter - Is the bidirectional device installed at the Connection Point which measures the amount of electric energy actually exchanged (either in import or in export) by the Consumer with the distribution network.

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Maximum Connected Capacity - The Eligible Consumer maximum PV installed generation capacity which SEC allows to operate in parallel to the Distribution Network. The Maximum Connected Capacity shall not exceed for any reasons the limits set forth by ECRA Regulations.

Solar PV System Meter - Is the device installed at the common output point of the Small-Scale Solar PV System and which measures the total energy produced from the Solar PV Units. As per ECRA Regulations this will be required only for Solar PV Systems with Maximum Capacity >100kW

PV Array – Assembly of electrically interconnected PV modules, PV strings or PV sub-arrays. For the purposes of these Technical Standards a PV array is all components up to the DC input terminals of the inverter.

Rated active power – Represents the sum of the nominal active power of all the Solar PV Units which compose the Solar PV System; it is generally referred as P_{nom} .

Reactive power capability – Defines the reserves of inductive/capacitive reactive power which can be provided by a generating system/unit. The reactive power capability usually varies with the active power and the voltage of the generating system/unit.

Reactive Power - Represents the imaginary component of the apparent power, usually expressed in kilovar (kVAR) or Megavar (MVAR).

Small-Scale Solar PV System – As per ECRA Regulations, a solar PV installation of not more than 2MW and not less than 1kW capacity that is installed in one Premises and connected in parallel to the Distribution Network. From the purposes of this document, and in line with the definition DCD40 of the Distribution Code, this System is to be considered as a power station with one or more Small-Scale Solar PV Units. Besides, circuits and auxiliary services are also to be considered part of a Small-Scale Solar PV System. For avoidance of doubt, in this document the generic term Solar PV System will be considered equivalent to Small-Scale Solar PV System.

Small-Scale Solar PV Unit – A group of devices which collect the sun's rays within a Solar PV System, together with all plant and apparatus and any step-up transformer which relates exclusively to the operation of that part of the same Solar PV System. Only units which are inverter based (i.e. Asynchronously connected to the Distribution Network through power electronics devices) are taken into consideration in this document. For the purposes of these Technical Standards, this definition will be equivalent to that of Power Park Module as given in DCD41 of the Distribution Code. For avoidance of doubt, in this document the generic term Solar PV Unit will be considered equivalent to Small-Scale Solar PV Unit.

Switch – Mechanical device capable of making, carrying and breaking currents in normal circuit conditions and, when specified, in given operating overload conditions. In addition, it is able to carry, for a specified time, currents under specified abnormal circuit conditions, such as short-circuit conditions.

Synchronism - Synchronism occurs when two a.c. voltages are of the same frequency and magnitude, and have zero phase difference.

THD (Total Harmonic Distortion) – With reference to an alternating quantity, it represents the ratio of the r.m.s. value of the harmonic content to the r.m.s. value of the fundamental component or the reference fundamental component.

5 GLOSSARY

The following acronyms and symbols are used throughout the document:

$\cos \varphi$	Power factor
ECRA	Electricity and Co-Generation Regulatory Authority
IP (or I.P.)	Interface Protection
LOM	Loss Of Mains
LV	Low Voltage (namely 220/127 Vac or 380/220 Vac or 400/230 Vac)
LVRT	Low Voltage Ride Through
MV	Medium Voltage (namely 13.8kV or 33 kV)
P	Active power
P _{nom}	Nominal active power of equipment
p.u. (or pu)	per unit
PV	(Solar) PhotoVoltaic
Q	Reactive Power
ROCOF	Rate Of Change Of Frequency expressed in Hz/s.
S	Apparent Power
S _n	Nominal Apparent Power
SEC	Saudi Electricity Company
V	Voltage
V _{nom}	Nominal Voltage

6 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

6.1 General requirements

A Small Scale Solar PV System shall be connected to SEC Distribution Network, either LV or MV, at an appropriate point, called Connection Point. It is the responsibility of SEC to design a suitable process which determines the appropriate Connection Point and assesses the capacity of the network to host the connecting Small-Scale Solar PV System at that point whilst maintaining a stable, reliable and economical operation of the system for all operating conditions.

According to the Distribution Code, if the results of such process highlight that the connecting Small Scale Solar PV System is likely to cause the network to possibly operate outside of SEC statutory performance standards, SEC has the right to reject the connection application or to propose modifications (for example in terms of Connection Point and/or characteristics of the Small-Scale Solar PV System) or alternative solutions (for example in terms of network reinforcements) to enable the connection.

The Maximum Connected Capacity of the Small-Scale Solar PV System to be proposed by the Consumer, will be determined in agreement with the specific clauses of ECRA Regulations.

With reference to the requirements defined in the present document and the possibility that different requirements may interfere with each other, the protection and control devices of a Small-Scale Solar PV System shall be organized in accordance with the following priority ranking (from highest to lowest):

1. Protection of the Solar PV Units
2. Protection against faults within the Consumer's installation
3. Protection of the distribution network (Interface Protection)
4. Remote disconnection
5. Active power response to frequency variations
6. Remote limitation of active power
7. Remote reactive power control modes
8. Local reactive power control modes

6.2 Connection schemes

A Small-Scale Solar PV System shall be in compliance with the connection requirements of SEC, and especially shall meet the following requirements:

- the synchronization, operation and disconnection of the System under normal network operating conditions, i.e. in the absence of faults or malfunctions, shall bear no consequences to the statutory power quality of the network;
- the protection schemes and settings needed for the Solar PV System shall be coordinated with those of the distribution network; they shall therefore be agreed between SEC and the Consumer with the following purpose:
 - faults and malfunctions within the Solar PV System shall not impair the normal operation of SEC distribution network. In particular, any faults that including earth-faults with leakage current internal to the Consumer's installation will be detected and cleared below or at the connection point before any SEC protection operates;
 - the protection schemes and settings for electrical faults within the Consumer's installation must not affect the performances of the Solar PV System;
 - the protection schemes of the Solar PV System shall be coordinated with those of the distribution network in order to operate properly in case of faults either within the Solar PV System or within the distribution network.

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In order to satisfy the above requirements, Figure 1 and Figure 2 present the typical equipment which shall be at least installed for a safe and reliable interconnection of a Small-Scale Solar PV System to the LV and MV distribution network respectively:

- A Main Switch shall be installed as close as possible to the Connection Point and shall be operated by a protection system in case of internal faults, in accordance with the Distribution Code 1. If agreed with SEC, it is possible to install more than one main switches in order, for example, to have two separate circuits, one dedicated to the Consumer's loads and one dedicated to the Small-Scale Solar PV System. An example of this is given in Figure 11 in ANNEX A.
- The Interface Switch, operated by an Interface Protection, shall be envisaged in the Consumer installation to separate the portion of it containing one or more Solar PV Units from both the remaining part of the Consumer's installation containing only loads and SEC distribution network. For Solar PV Systems whose power exceeds 20kW, a backup is necessary in case of failure on this switch opening.
- The Solar PV Unit Switch shall be installed as electrically close as possible to the terminals of each Small-Scale Solar PV Unit, for the protection and the connection/disconnection of that unit. For the protection issues, the recommendations and requirements of the Manufacturer of the equipment shall apply.

ANNEX A presents typical connection schemes which can be adopted for the connection of a Solar PV System to SEC Distribution Networks. Different arrangements may be used if previously agreed with SEC.

DISCLAIMER

In case the nominal voltage of the inverters does not match the nominal voltage of the distribution network, a transformer shall be necessary to connect either the Small-Scale Solar PV System or each single Solar PV Unit to the network. The cost of this transformer shall not for any reason be ascribed to SEC and shall be entirely borne by the Consumer solely.

6.3 Choice of Switches

For each of the above mentioned switches, the choice of the type to be installed (circuit breaker, contactor, disconnecting switch with fuses,...) shall be based on:

- the functions the switch shall carry out;
- the characteristics of the Consumer's installation;
- the characteristics of SEC Distribution Network at the Consumer's Connection Point.

Especially, the following criteria shall be adopted:

- the switches, panels and switchgear shall be compliant with the requirements of the Distribution Code,
- the switch(es) of the Solar PV Unit(s) shall be compliant with the Manufacturer requirements,
- For Solar PV Systems connected to the MV Distribution Network and with the Interface Switch on the MV side of the plant (see Figure 15 in ANNEX A), the Interface Switch shall consist of:
 - three-pole withdrawable automatic circuit breaker operated by an undervoltage release, or
 - three-pole automatic circuit breaker operated by an undervoltage release along with an isolator (either upstream or downstream the circuit breaker)

In any case, the circuit breaker shall be motorized, to allow automatic reclosure once the network disturbances that have led to the trip of the Interface Protection have been cleared. The consensus

¹ For the definition of the requirements of the protection system against faults within the Consumers' installations, please refer to DCC4.2 in the Distribution Code

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to the reclosure of the Interface Switch shall be given by the Interface Protection itself, which has then to sense the voltages on the network side (as represented in the Connection Schemes, Figure 15) and not on the Solar PV System side of the Interface Switch

- For Solar PV Systems connected to the MV Distribution Network and with the Interface Switch on the LV side of the plant (see Figure 14 in ANNEX A) or for Solar PV Systems connected to the LV distribution network (see schemes from Figure 9 to Figure 13 in ANNEX A), the interface switch shall consist of either:
 - motorized automatic circuit breaker or switch disconnector operated by an undervoltage release, or
 - AC3 contactor which operates on all the poles (i.e. phases and neutral);in order to allow automatic reclosure once the network disturbances that have led to the trip of the Interface Protection have been cleared. The consensus to the reclosure of the Interface Switch shall be given by the Interface Protection itself, which has then to sense the voltages on the network side (as represented in the Connection Schemes, from Figure 9 to Figure 13) and not on the Solar PV System side of the Interface Switch;
- any switch shall have a breaking and making capacity coordinated with the rated values of the Consumer's installation, taking into consideration both the generating plant and the contribution to short circuit from the Distribution Network;
- the short-time withstand current of the switching devices shall be coordinated with the maximum short circuit power at the Connection Point²;
- in case of loss of auxiliary supply power to the switchgear, a secure disconnection of the Interface Switch is required immediately.

The function of the Interface Switch can be combined with either the Main Switch or the Solar PV Unit Switch in a single switching device³. In case of a combination of these, the single combined switching device shall be compliant with both the requirements of the interface switch and of either main switch or PV unit switch, according to the combination chosen. As a consequence, at least two switches in series shall be always present between a Small-Scale Solar PV Unit and the Connection Point. For further details, please refer to Connection Schemes in ANNEX A.

6.4 Protection of the installation against faults

The electrical protections required for the connection of a Solar PV System to SEC Distribution networks are of concern in the present document. These additional protections shall be checked and approved by DPED-SEC. Other protections shall also be installed to protect the Consumer's electrical assets as per SEC protection policy. All protections shall be graded and co-ordinated with SEC upstream protections and downstream protections within the solar installation. Any faults down to the Connection Point shall be cleared at the same point or below, without impacting SEC distribution network.

Where overcurrent protection is required for the safety of the equipment, whether this be part of the Solar PV System or not, automatic disconnection of the faulted circuit shall be accomplished.

PV System can contribute 1.2 times of the maximum current rating of the PV panel. Hence it is not required to make any changes existing protection setting of the overcurrent relays.

² Information about the maximum prospective short-circuit level of SEC distribution networks is reported in DCC4.5.1 of the Distribution Code.

³ For connection schemes using a single main switch, the combination of the interface switch with the main switch will lead to the disconnection of the overall Consumer's facility when the interface switch is opened, that is a lack of supply will also affect the Consumer load.

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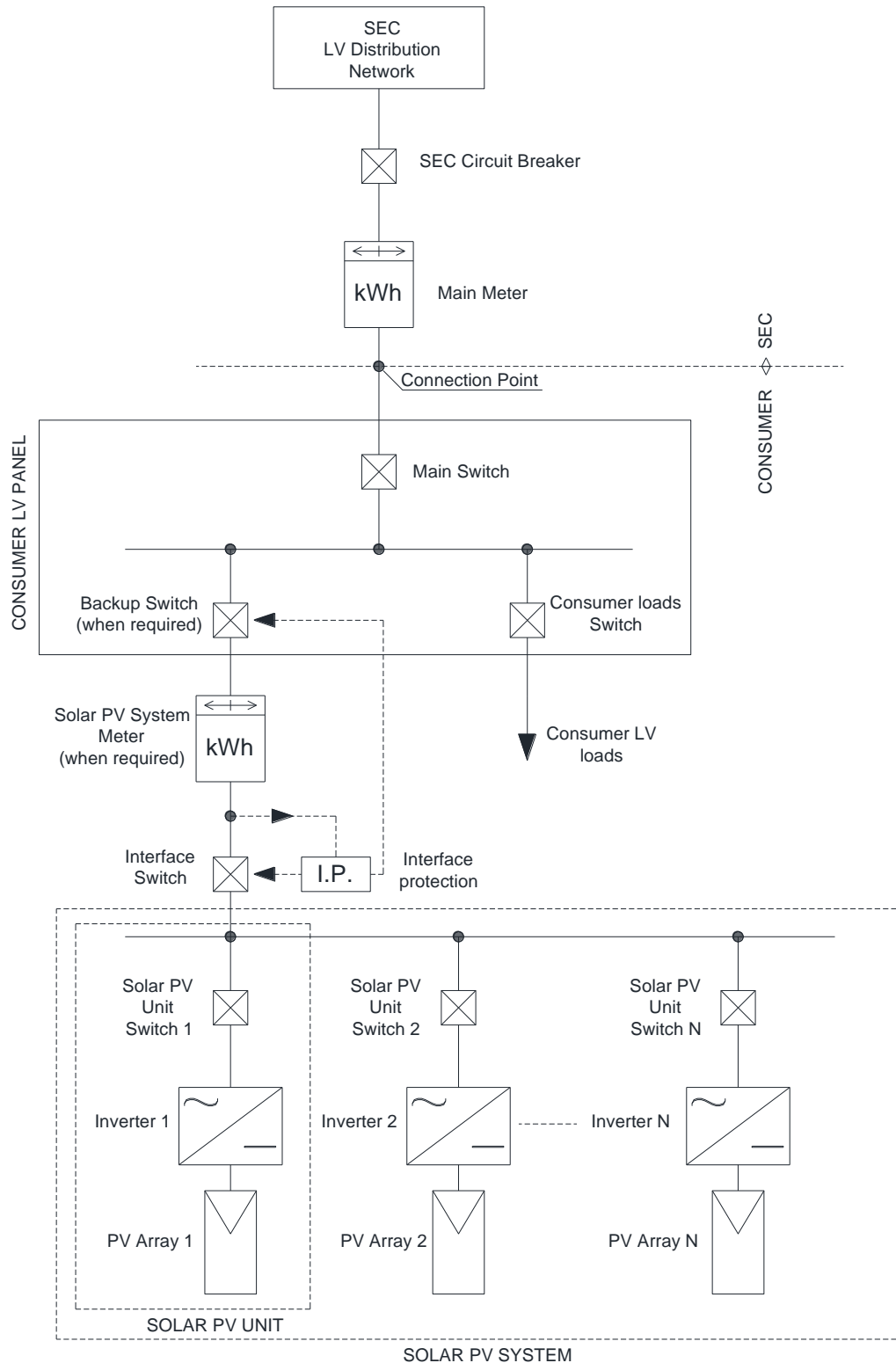


Figure 1 - Schematic representation for the interconnection of a Small-scale Solar PV System with SEC LV Distribution Network

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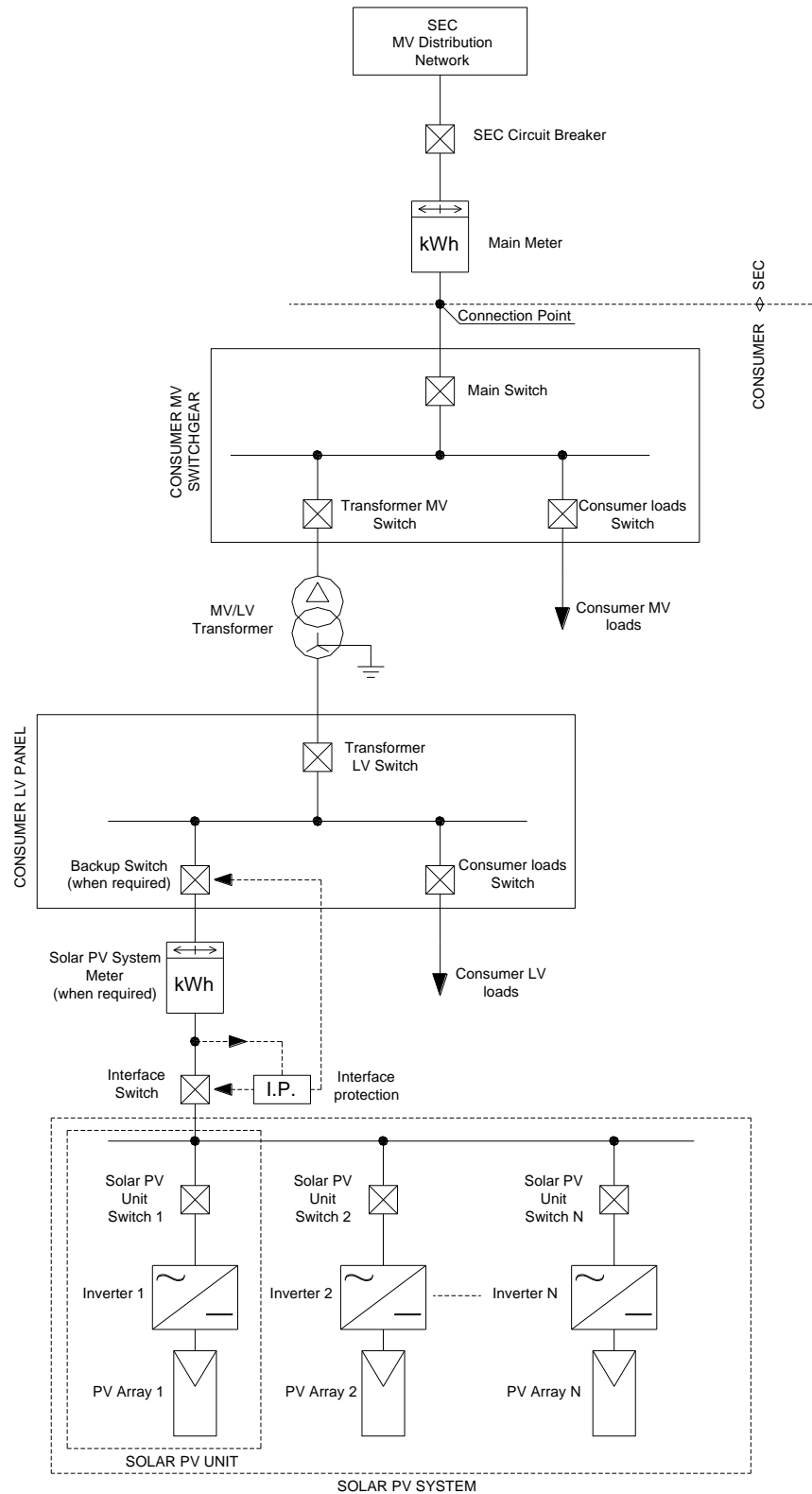


Figure 2 - Schematic representation for the interconnection of a Small-scale Solar PV System with SEC MV Distribution Network (either 13.8 or 33kV)

6.5 Operating ranges

Small-Scale Solar PV Solar PV Systems shall be capable of remaining connected to the Distribution Network and of operating stably, as specified in this document, in the frequency and voltage ranges for the time periods specified in the tables below, regardless of the type and settings of the protection systems:

Table 1: Frequency operating range

Below Nominal Frequency (Hz)	Above Nominal Frequency (Hz)	Operation Requirement
58.8 – 60.0	60.0 – 60.5	Continuous
57.5 – 58.7	60.6 – 61.5	for a period of 30 minutes
57.0 – 57.4	61.6 – 62.5	for a period of 30 seconds

Table 2: Voltage operating range

Voltage range at the Connection Point	Operation Requirement
90-110% Nominal Voltage	Continuous

6.6 Immunity to disturbances

6.6.1 Low Voltage Ride Through (LVRT) capability

Small-Scale Solar PV Solar PV Systems shall contribute to the stability of the overall power system by providing immunity towards dynamic voltage changes, especially those due to faults on the higher voltage level networks. The requirements below apply to all kind of disturbances (1ph, 2ph and 3ph faults) and are independent of the Interface Protection settings (see 6.9.4) which overrule the technical capabilities of a Solar PV System. Therefore, whether the Solar PV System will stay connected or not will also depend on settings of the Interface Protection.

A Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW shall be capable to stay connected to the distribution network as long as the voltage at the Connection Point remains above the voltage-time diagram of Figure 3. The p.u. voltage shall be calculated with respect to the nominal voltage at the Connection Point. For three-phase generating systems, the smallest phase to phase voltage shall be evaluated. The compliance to such LVRT requirement shall apply to all equipment that might cause the disconnection of the Small-Scale Solar PV System, i.e. Inverters and Interface Protection.

After the fault is cleared and the voltage returned within the voltage normal operating range (see 6.5), the pre-disturbance operating conditions (active & reactive power) shall be recovered as fast as possible and with a tolerance of $\pm 10\%$ of the Small-Scale Solar PV System rated power.

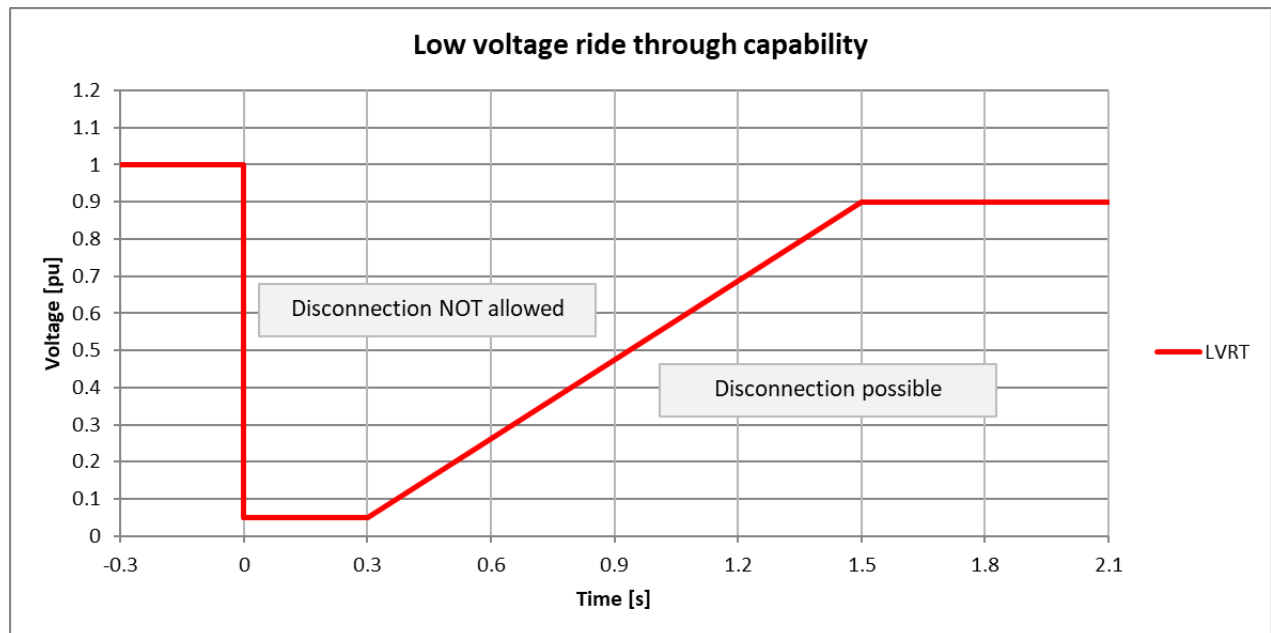


Figure 3 - LVRT characteristic for Small-Scale Solar PV System > 11kW

6.6.2 ROCOF withstand capability

Small Scale Solar PV Systems, when generating power, shall be able to go through frequency transients with frequency within the normal operating range (see 6.5) and with ROCOF value up to 2.5 Hz/s [12] [13].

In the case the Loss Of Mains (LOM) protection, as described in 6.9.4, implements a ROCOF-based method, the threshold of the LOM function shall not cause the intervention of the protection within the immunity ranges as specified in this paragraph.

6.7 Requirements for the frequency stability of the power system

6.7.1 Active power response to frequency variations

A Small Scale Solar PV System shall be capable of activating the provision of active power response to over-frequency transients according to the curve of Figure 4, with frequency threshold and droop settings adjustable and to be specified by SEC;

- the frequency threshold shall be settable at least between 60 Hz and 62 Hz inclusive; if not differently specified by SEC, the threshold shall be set to 60.2Hz;
- the generated active power P_{gen} shall be referred to the actual active power value P_{act} when the threshold is reached and the active power response is activated;
- the droop settings shall be between 2% and 8% in steps of a maximum of 1 %; if not explicitly specified by SEC, the droop shall be set to 3.83%.

The resolution of the frequency measurement shall be ± 10 mHz or less. The active power response shall be activated as fast as possible and shall be delivered with an accuracy of $\pm 10\%$ of the nominal power.

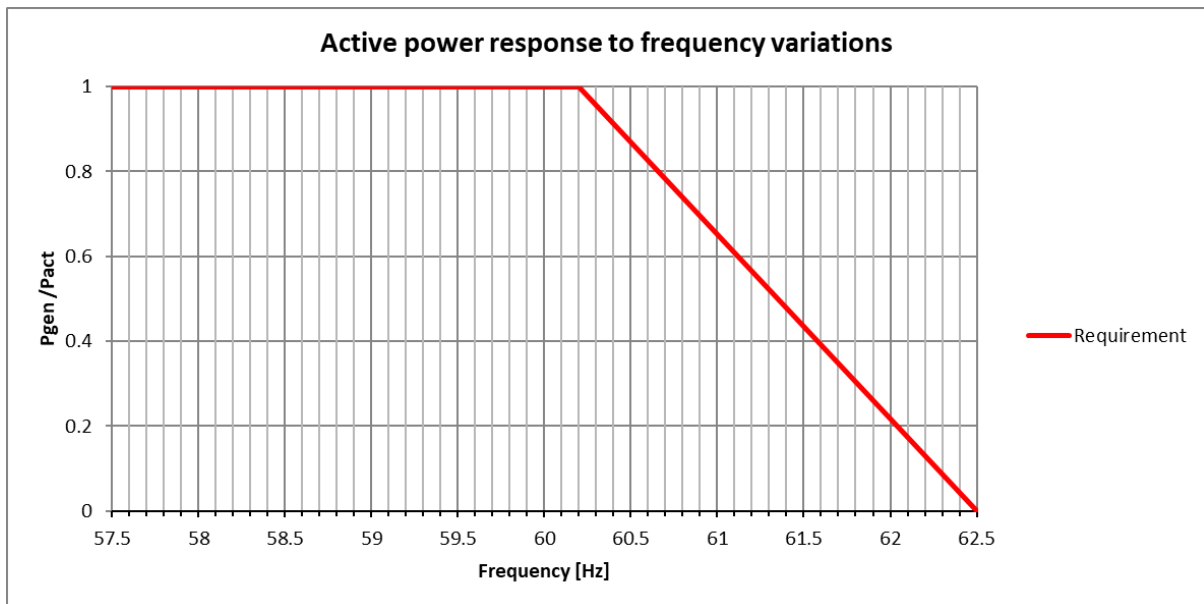


Figure 4 - Active power frequency response for Small-Scale Solar PV System

6.7.2 Active power delivery at under-frequencies

When a Small-Scale Solar PV System works in under-frequency operating conditions due to the Distribution Network, the reduction of the maximum active power shall be kept as low as technically feasible; in any case, any decrease of the maximum reachable active power output shall be kept above the curve of Figure 5.

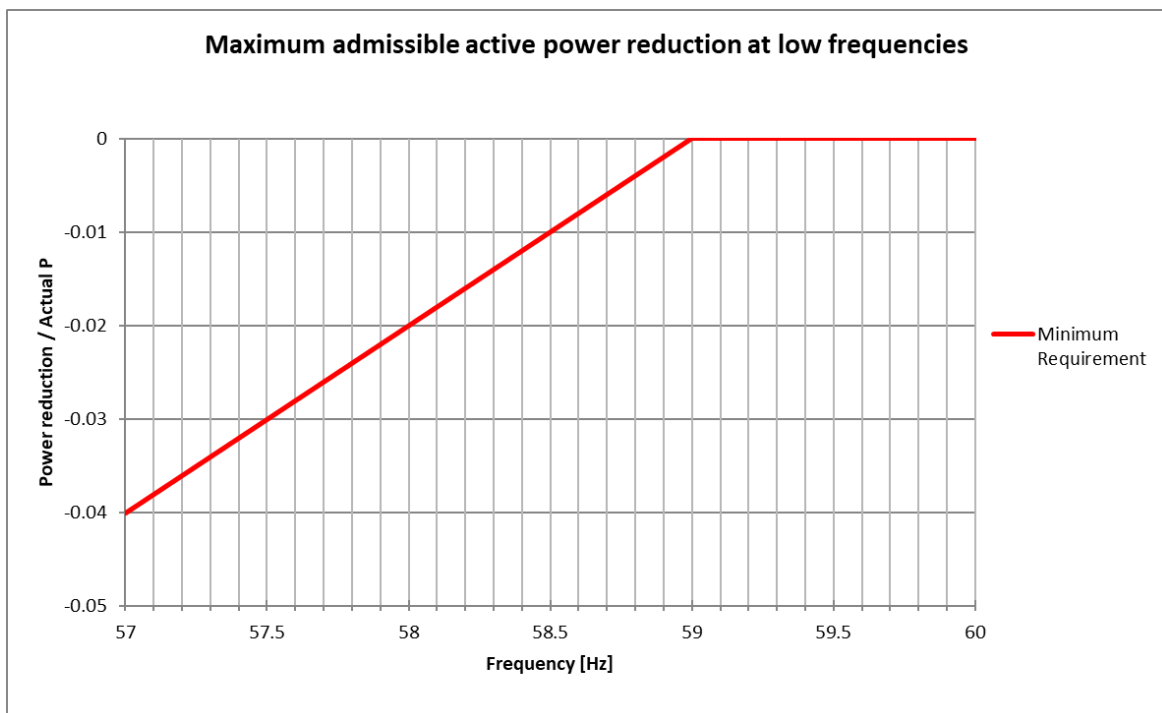


Figure 5 - Maximum admissible output power reduction at low frequencies

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONNECTION OF SMALL-SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS

6.7.3 Remote limitation of active power

A Small Scale Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW shall be equipped with an interface (input port) which is able to receive, from a remote control center, an instruction requiring the reduction of the active power output.

The reduction of active power shall be carried out as fast as possible and with an accuracy greater than 5% of the nominal active power of the Solar PV System.

In accordance with the provisions set forth in 6.9.5, SEC shall have the right to specify further requirements in terms of equipment, communication protocol, information to be exchanged and/or time of execution, which allow to integrate such feature into the control systems of its distribution network and which allow to remotely limit the active power output of the Small Scale Solar PV Units connected to its network.

6.8 Requirements for the voltage stability of the power system

6.8.1 Reactive power capability

When voltage and frequency at the Connection Point are within their normal operating ranges, a Small Scale Solar PV System shall be able to provide reactive power in any operating point within the boundaries of the reactive power capability curves defined in Figure 6⁴.

According to this capability, the inverters will be able to either generate or absorb inductive reactive power from the Distribution Network, in order to participate to voltage support at the Connection Point, for any of the values of active power generated by the Solar PV System.

Three areas are visible in Figure 6:

- Triangular area, required for inverters included in Solar PV Systems whose Maximum Connected Capacity is smaller than or equal to 11kW: for an active power ranging from zero to the nominal power of the Solar PV System (i.e. 1 p.u.), the inverter shall be capable of either generating or absorbing inductive reactive power Q at a power factor $\cos\phi$ of 0.95 (boundary points of the triangular curve in the chart);
- Rectangular area, required for inverters included in Solar PV Systems whose Maximum Connected Capacity is greater than 11kW: these shall be capable of either generating or absorbing inductive reactive power Q within the area. For a value of 1 p.u. of active power, that is when the generated power is equal to nominal power, this corresponds to a power factor $\cos\phi$ of 0.95 (apex points of the rectangular area for $P=1$ p.u.);
- Design free area, that is an area which can be optionally exploited by the inverter Manufacturers.

With reference to Figure 6, when the Small Scale Solar PV System operates in the design free area (i.e. above its nominal active power because of favorable environmental conditions), it is allowed to reduce the reactive power capability according to the widest possible technical capability of the Solar PV Units.

When the Small-Scale Solar PV System is operating above a threshold of 10 % of its nominal apparent power S_n , the required reactive power Q shall be provided with an accuracy of $\pm 2\% S_n$. Below the threshold of 10% of S_n , deviations above 2% of accuracy are permissible; nevertheless the accuracy shall always be as good as technically feasible and shall not exceed 10% of S_n .

⁴ The active power 1 p.u. shall refer to the nominal active power value of the Solar PV System: at 1 p.u. of active power, the reactive power capability of a Solar PV System corresponds to a power factor varying between 0.95 leading (inductive reactive power absorbed) to 0.95 lagging (inductive reactive power generated).

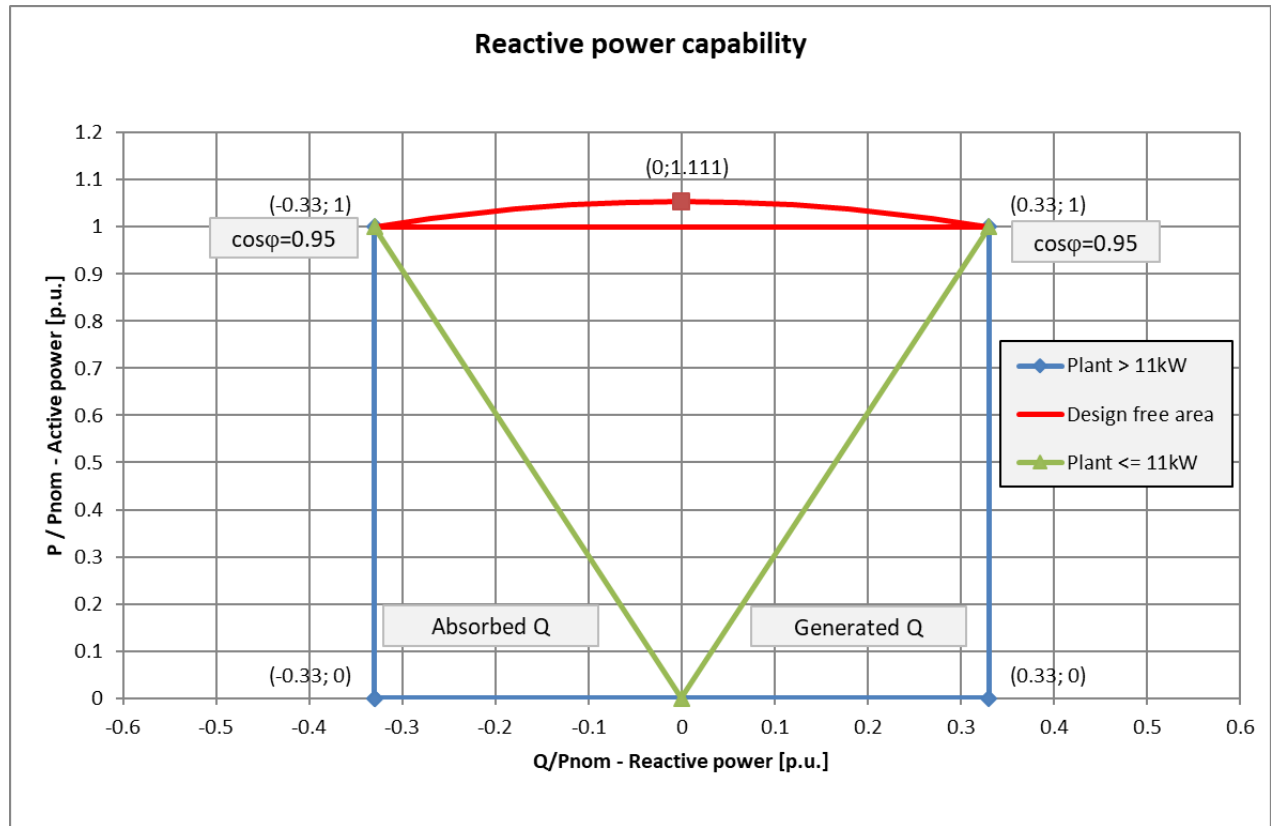


Figure 6 - Reactive power capability

6.8.2 Reactive power control modes

A Small Scale Solar PV System shall be capable of operating in the control modes stated below, within the limits of its reactive power capability as expressed in 6.8.1:

- fixed Q: the reactive power is controlled in order to have a fixed value;
- fixed $\cos \phi$: the reactive power is controlled in order to have a fixed power factor;
- $\cos \phi (P)$: the reactive power is controlled in order to have a power factor function of the actual active power delivery;
- $Q=f(V)$: the reactive power is controlled as a function of the local voltage, according to a characteristic curve.

The above control modes are exclusive; only one mode may be active at a time. The activation, deactivation and configuration of the control modes shall be field adjustable. It is the responsibility of SEC to communicate to the Solar PV System's owner which of the above mentioned reactive power control mode shall be activated.

6.8.2.1 Fixed control modes

When operated with fixed Q or fixed $\cos \phi$ control mode, the Small Scale Solar PV Unit shall control the reactive power or the $\cos \phi$ of its output according to a set point set in the control system of the Small-Scale Solar PV System. If not explicitly specified by SEC, the default set point values shall be 0 for fixed Q control mode and 1 for fixed $\cos \phi$ control mode.

For a Small Scale Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW, the Solar PV System shall also be able to receive the set-point from a remote control center in accordance with the provisions set forth in 6.9.5.

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6.8.2.2 Power related control mode

The power related control mode $\cos \phi (P)$ controls the $\cos \phi$ of the output as a function of the active power output. A characteristic with a minimum and maximum value and three connected lines according to Figure 7 shall be configurable within the control systems of the Small-Scale Solar PV System; a change in active power output results in a new $\cos \phi$ set point according to the characteristic.

The parameters A, B and C shall be field adjustable and their settings are the responsibility of SEC. If not explicitly specified by SEC, these parameters shall be set as indicated below:

- A $P = 0 \text{ Pnom}$ $\cos \phi = 1$
- B $P = 0.5 \text{ Pnom}$ $\cos \phi = 1$
- C $P = \text{Pnom}$ $\cos \phi = 0.95$ (with the Small-Scale Solar PV System absorbing / injecting reactive power from the Distribution Network)

where Pnom is the active nominal power of the Solar PV Unit.

The response to a new $\cos \phi$ set point value shall be as fast as technically feasible after the new value of the active power is reached. The accuracy of the control to each set point shall be in accordance with the requirements of 6.8.1.

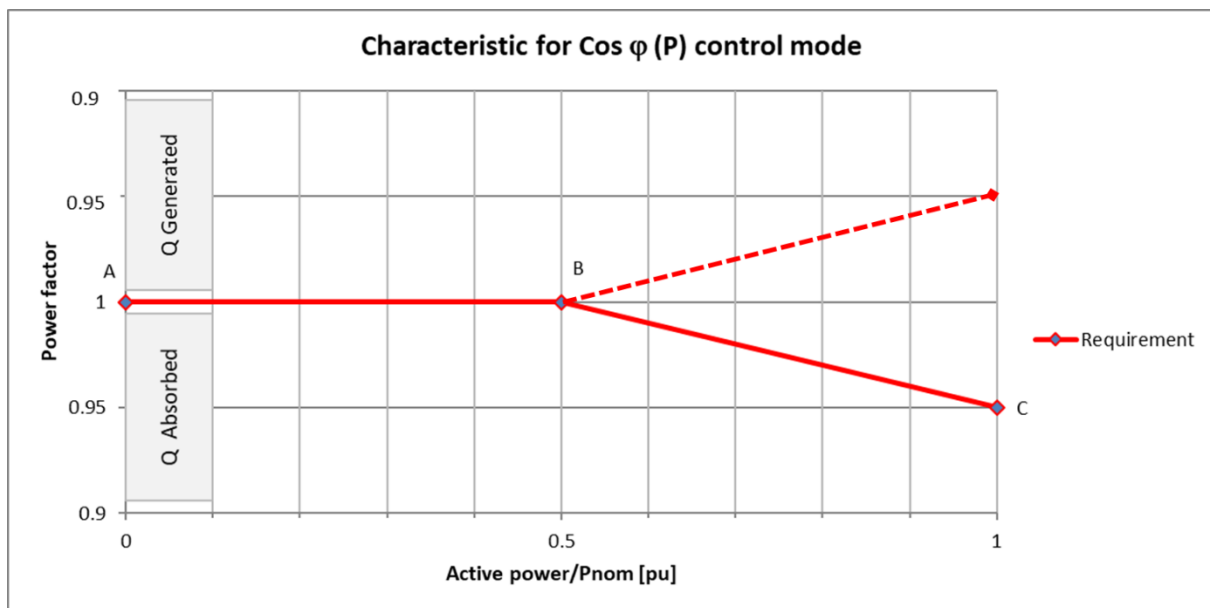


Figure 7 - Characteristic for $\cos \phi (P)$ control mode

The implementation of a lock-in and lock-out voltage level shall be configurable, each in the range 90% to 110% of the nominal voltage at the Connection Point: the contribution is activated when the voltage at the Connection Point exceeds the lock-in voltage and is deactivated when the voltage at the Connection Point drops below the lock-out voltage. When the contribution is not activated, the Small-Scale Solar PV System shall be controlled with a unity power factor ($\cos \phi = 1$).

6.8.2.3 Reactive power support as a function of the voltage $Q(V)$

For Small Scale Solar PV Systems with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW, for such control mode, a characteristic with a minimum and maximum reactive power value and three connecting lines according to Figure 8 shall be configurable.

It is SEC responsibility communicate the parameters to be configured in case this support is required from Solar PV Systems.

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The values shall be assigned with the following criteria, therefore the parameter ranges available in the inverter shall not limit this setting:

- Q_{max} and $-Q_{max}$ correspond to the capability curve boundaries as per Figure 6 (e.g. $0.33 P_{nom}$, where P_{nom} is the nominal power of the Solar PV Unit)
- $V1 > [27<]$ threshold of Interface Protection
- $V4 < [59>]$ threshold of Interface Protection
- $V2 < V_{nom} < V3$

Possible default values can be the following, unless differently agreed with SEC:

$V1 = 0.9 V_{nom}$

$V4 = 1.1 V_{nom}$

$V2 = 0.95 V_{nom}$, $V3 = 1.05 V_{nom}$

where V_{nom} is the nominal Voltage at the Connection Point.

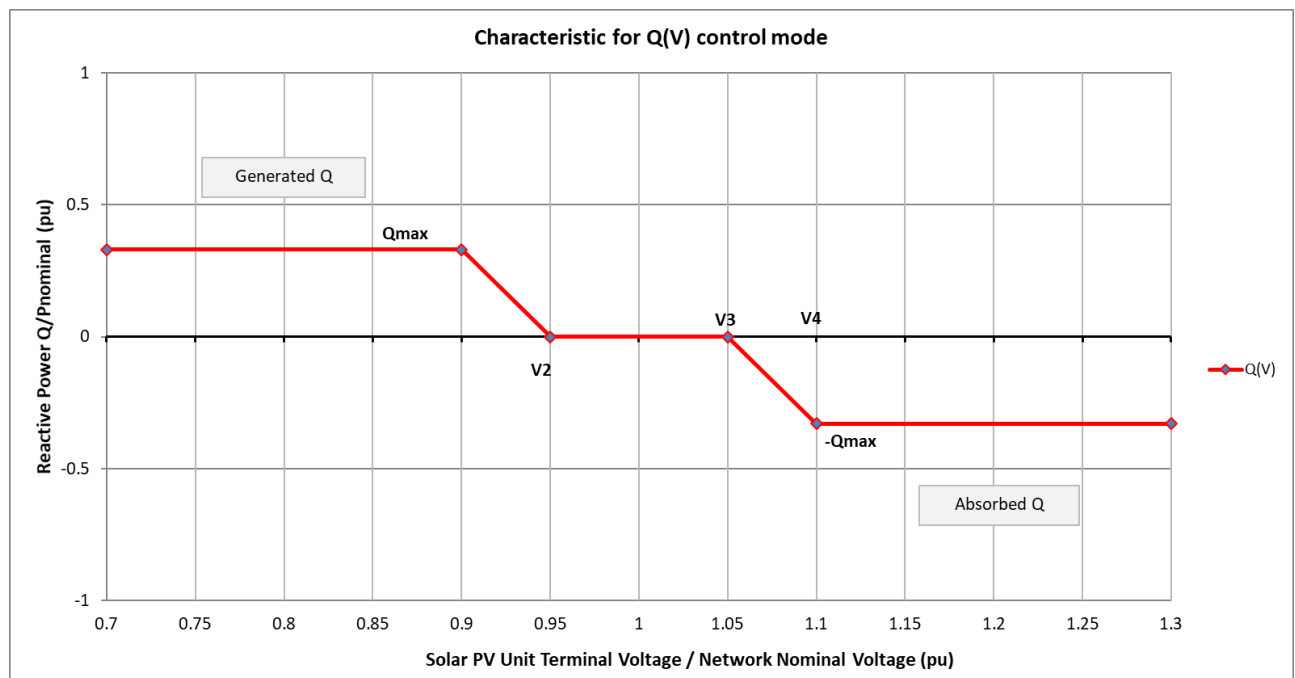


Figure 8 - Characteristic for Q(V) control mode

6.8.3 Power reduction at increasing voltage

In order to avoid the disconnection due to overvoltage protection, a Small-Scale Solar PV System is allowed to reduce its power output (active and/or reactive power) as a function of the rising voltage at the Connection Point. The implemented logic can be chosen by the Manufacturer/Consumer. Nevertheless, the implemented logic shall not cause steps or oscillations in the power output of the system.

6.8.4 Reactive current injection during a fault

The provision of reactive current during a fault is currently not required for Small-Scale Solar PV Systems. Such feature might be introduced in the future and only for MV connected Solar PV Systems, in a scenario of a growing penetration level of distributed generation and a decreasing short circuit power of the power system of the KSA.

6.9 Requirements for the management of the power system

6.9.1 Connection conditions

A Small-Scale Solar PV System is allowed to be connected to the network and to start to generate electrical power due to normal operational start-up, when the voltage and frequency are within the following range for at least the observation time:

- Frequency range $59.5 \text{ Hz} \leq \text{Frequency} \leq 60.05 \text{ Hz}$;
- Voltage range $95\% V_{nom} \leq \text{Voltage} \leq 105\% V_{nom}$ (V_{nom} = nominal voltage at the Connection Point);
- Minimum observation time 300s.

Synchronizing a Small-Scale Solar PV System with the distribution network shall be fully automatic, that is it shall not be possible to manually close the switch between the two systems to carry out the synchronization⁵.

The synchronization of a Solar PV System to the distribution network shall not create a transient voltage variation at the Connection Point of more than 4% of nominal voltage.

After the connection, a Solar PV System shall follow its target active power value with a variation rate not greater than 10% P_{nom}/min , where P_{nom} is the nominal active power of the Solar PV System.

The active power target shall be the maximum available active power output that the Solar PV System can generate, taking into account the environmental conditions (irradiation, temperature, ...), except for the operating conditions when the power output shall follow changes due to the provision of some of the services specified in this document (see 6.7.1, 6.7.3 and 6.8.3).

6.9.2 Remote disconnection

A Small-Scale Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW shall be equipped with a logic interface (input port) in order to disconnect from the network following an instruction received at its interface.

In accordance with the provisions set forth in 6.9.5, SEC shall have the right to specify further requirements in terms of equipment, time of execution, communication protocol and/or data to be exchanged, to integrate such feature into the control systems of its distribution network and to allow the remote disconnection of the Small-Scale Solar PV Systems connected to its network.

6.9.3 Automatic reconnection after tripping

After the trip of the interface protection, a Small-Scale Solar PV System is allowed to reconnect to the network only if the voltage and frequency are within the following range for at least the observation time:

- Frequency range $59.5 \text{ Hz} \leq \text{Frequency} \leq 60.05 \text{ Hz}$;
- Voltage range $95\% V_{nom} \leq \text{Voltage} \leq 105\% V_{nom}$ (V_{nom} = nominal voltage at the Connection Point);
- Minimum observation time 300s.

After reconnection, the Small-Scale Solar PV System shall return to its target active power value with a variation rate not greater than 10% P_{nom}/min , where P_{nom} is the nominal active power of the Solar PV System.

6.9.4 Interface Protection

The purpose of the interface protection is to:

- disconnect the Small-Scale Solar PV System from the Distribution Network in the following cases

⁵ It means that the switch used for the synchronization with the network cannot be a manual switch.

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- the Distribution Network (or the feeder) the Solar PV System is connected to is de-energised from the main source of supply. De-energisation can happen automatically due to protection system operation or manual/electrical disconnection. Electrical/manual disconnection in the Distribution Network can happen either remotely by SEC SCADA system or by local switching;
- the voltage and/or frequency values at the Connection Point are out of the normal operating ranges as defined in 6.5.
- prevent the Small-Scale Solar PV System, when generating power, to cause over-voltages in the distribution network it is connected to.

It is not the purpose of the interface protection to:

- disconnect the Solar PV System from the Distribution Network in case of faults within the Consumer's installation; for such issues, the requirements for the connection of passive customers shall apply (refer to Distribution Code);
- prevent damages to the Consumer's equipment (generating units or loads) due to faults/incidents (e.g. short circuits) in the Distribution Network or on the Consumer's installation; for such issues, the recommendations and requirements of the manufacturers of the equipment shall apply.

The interface protection shall be a dedicated device which acts on the interface switch. For a Small-Scale Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity smaller than or equal to 11kW, it is permitted to integrate both the interface protection and the interface switch into the Inverter (see for example Figure 9 in ANNEX A).

The interface protection shall command the interface switch; for a Small-Scale Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW, unless explicitly agreed by SEC, only one interface protection and one interface switch shall be used.

For a Small-Scale Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 20kW, the interface protection shall additionally act on another switch (backup switch) with a proper delay in case the interface switch fails to operate (see for example Figure 13 in ANNEX A). The backup switch may consist of a dedicated switch or an already existing switch⁶. When the back-up switch is triggered because the interface switch has failed to open, only manual reclosure shall be possible⁷.

For a Small-Scale Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW, the power supply of the interface protection shall include an uninterruptible power supply.

The loss of the auxiliary voltage on either the interface protection or on the Solar PV System's control system shall trigger the interface switch without delay.

The protection functions required in the Interface Protection are the following:

- Undervoltage [27]
 - One threshold [27<] in the range [20%; 100%] of the nominal voltage at the Connection Point adjustable by steps of 5%, and delay time in the range [0.1s;100s] adjustable in steps of 0.1s;
 - One threshold [27<<] in the range [0%; 100%] of the of the nominal voltage at the Connection Point adjustable by steps of 5%, and delay time in the range [0.1s;5s] adjustable in steps of 0.05s.

⁶ It is anyway recommended not to use the main switch as back-up switch since it could lead to the disconnection of the overall Consumer's facility in the case the interface switch fails to open, with the consequence of the power supply also being removed to Consumer's loads.

⁷ The reasons are that it is required that the plant operator first acknowledges and checks the reasons why the interface switch failed to open, then remedies the technical issues and finally resumes operation.

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- Overvoltage [59]
 - One threshold [59>] in the range [100%; 120%] of the of the nominal voltage at the Connection Point adjustable by steps of 1%, and delay time in the range [0.1s;100s] adjustable in steps of 0.1s;
 - One threshold [59>>] in the range [100%; 130%] of the of the nominal voltage at the Connection Point adjustable by steps of 1%, and delay time in the range [0.1s;5s] adjustable in steps of 0.05s.
- Overfrequency [81>]
 - One threshold [81>] in the range [60Hz; 63Hz] adjustable by steps of 0.1Hz, and delay time in the range [0.1s;100s] adjustable in steps of 0.1s;
 - One threshold [81>>] in the range [60Hz; 63Hz] adjustable by steps of 0.1Hz, and delay time in the range [0.1s;5s] adjustable in steps of 0.05s;
- Underfrequency [81<]
 - One threshold [81<] in the range [57Hz; 60Hz] adjustable by steps of 0.1Hz, and delay time in the range [0.1s;100s] adjustable in steps of 0.1s;
 - One threshold [81<<] in the range [57Hz; 60Hz] adjustable by steps of 0.1Hz, and delay time in the range [0.1s;5s] adjustable in steps of 0.05s;
- Loss Of Mains (Anti-Islanding):
for the Loss Of Mains (LOM) protection function, a wide variety of approaches can be used: besides the passive observation of voltage and frequency, other active and passive methods are available and used to detect unintentional islanding situations. The present document does not intend to specify the method to be used to achieve the goal but rather its efficacy; for such a reason, the only requirement on LOM protection is that the protection function shall be tested in accordance with SASO IEC 62116 or other equivalent standard, which provides procedures to evaluate the performance of islanding prevention measures used with utility-interconnected Solar PV Systems.

The present standard recognizes that it may not be straightforward for IP manufacturers to define settings of the LOM protection which can be efficient for all the current and future operating conditions of SEC distribution networks. This is especially the case of the most common passive methods currently used for the implementation of such function within a dedicated protection device (i.e. ROCOF and vector jump). The present standard also acknowledges that a LOM protection function implemented within a solar PV inverter through active methods for example frequency shift (setting as shown in Annex B), can be efficient under all operating conditions of the network. For such reasons, it is allowed that, for a Solar PV System of capacity larger than 11kW, the LOM protection function be integrated in each single inverter of the system, provided that the built-in LOM protection function of the single inverter has been tested according to SASO IEC 62116 or other equivalent standard. All IP Functions shall be activated in both External dedicated IP device & the functions integrated in each single inverter of the system and the same default setting shall be applied.

In any case, the LOM protection, irrespective of its actual position, i.e. either integrated in a dedicated Interface Protection or built-in in the inverter, shall detect island operating conditions and cease to energize the Distribution Network within two seconds of the formation of the island, unless differently specified by SEC on the basis of MV feeder auto-reclosure time.

The protection functions for under-voltage [27] and over-voltage [59] shall be fed by all the line voltages, whereas the protection functions for under-frequency [81<] and over-frequency [81>] shall be fed by at least one line voltage.

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Appropriate settings shall be applied to the interface protection and shall ensure the correct tripping of the Small-Scale Solar PV System under specific conditions. The settings shall be chosen so that, in case a fault within the distribution network triggers the network protection systems (which in turn disconnect the faulty feeder), all the Small Scale Solar PV Systems are disconnected before the attempt of reclosure in the MV distribution network takes place.

ANNEX B proposes default settings for 27, 59 and 81 protection functions. Such settings shall be actually applied to the Interface Protection of a Small-Scale Solar PV System only in case no other settings have been explicitly specified and communicated by SEC.

Moreover, the Interface Protection shall have at least two configurable digital inputs which may be used in the future⁸ by SEC for transfer trip, remote tripping or any other function that may be necessary to increase the capacity of the distribution networks to host distributed generation while keeping an acceptable level of reliability and security.

6.9.5 Monitoring, remote control and information exchange

Adequate information concerning the Consumers connected to the Distribution Networks is a prerequisite for enabling SEC to maintain the stability, reliability and security of its networks. SEC needs to have a continuous overview of the state of the network, which may require, in some cases, updated information on the operating conditions of the Small Scale Solar PV Systems connected to its Distribution Networks, as well as the possibility to communicate with these plants in order to direct the operational instructions set forth by the provisions of the present document.

Such requirements are usually needed in case of growing penetration level of the Small Scale Solar PV Systems in the distribution networks; they may also be introduced in the framework of other initiatives dedicated, for example, to the optimization of the control performances of the network.

A Small Scale Solar PV System with Maximum Connected Capacity greater than 11kW shall therefore have provision for bi-directional communication exchange which can be used for the exchange of information with SEC. Once actually needed for the operation of the network, in accordance with a cost/benefit approach, SEC shall have the right to specify additional requirements concerning especially:

- data, which shall be collected and sent to SEC in real-time or periodically, related to the operating conditions of the Small-Scale Solar PV System;
- operational instructions sent by SEC which shall be executed by the Small-Scale Solar PV System; such instructions shall be compliant with the requirements indicated in the present standards (especially the requirements of 6.7.3 and 6.9.2);
- Communications channels and protocols to be used for the above requirements.

If technically possible, SEC may take advantage of already existing communication channels, such as smart metering infrastructure, in order to facilitate the integration of the monitoring activities into its ICT architecture and reduce the costs of implementation.

6.9.6 Power factor

Any installations containing a Small-Scale Solar PV System shall comply with the power factor limits, as measured at the Connection Point, indicated in the Distribution Code⁹ (amended to date).

6.9.7 Power quality

6.9.7.1 Voltage deviation

Under normal operating conditions, the connection and operation of a Small-Scale Solar PV System

⁸ In a scenario of growing penetration level of distributed generation in the distribution networks of the KSA

⁹ Specifically DPC2.4

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shall not cause the voltage at its Connection Point and at the Connection Point of any other Consumers connected to the same Distribution Network, to vary from the system rated voltage by more than $\pm 5\%$.

The values of the voltages will then range in the following intervals as specified in the Distribution Code:

Table 3: Voltage range under normal operating conditions for the different voltage level

Nominal Voltage	Lowest Voltage	Highest Voltage
220/127 V	209/120 V	231/134 V
380/220 V	360/209 V	400/231 V
400/230 V	380/218.5 V	420/241.5 V
13.8 kV	13.1 kV	14.5 kV
33 kV	31.4 kV	34.7 kV

As regards the LV distribution network and voltage levels, ANNEX C describes the different configurations of SEC power system which can be found, with explanations of the different voltage levels.

6.9.7.2 Rapid voltage changes

Connection and disconnection of a Small-Scale Solar PV System from the distribution networks shall not give rise to voltage variations exceeding 3% of the system rated voltage at the Connection Point.

6.9.7.3 Harmonic and interharmonic voltages

Harmonic and interharmonic voltages at the Connection Point of a Small-Scale Solar PV System connected to the MV Distribution Network shall not exceed the limits of the planning levels specified in the Saudi Arabia Distribution Code (SADC) Harmonics section "DPC2.3 Harmonics".

6.9.7.4 DC injection

Small-Scale solar PV Systems shall not inject DC current into the network. The requirement is considered to be respected if the injected DC component is lower than 0.5% of the rated AC current value of the PV System.

The DC injection clause is considered to be passed when for all Solar PV Units within the Solar PV System the measured DC injection of a type-tested unit is below the above threshold.

The single Small Scale Solar PV System shall be equipped with a DC fault detection system which disconnects the faulty unit when the above limit is exceeded. A valid alternative to such system is the use of an AC/AC transformer which prevents from any DC injection into the network.

6.9.7.5 Clusters of Single-phase / Two-phase Solar PV generating units

The use of three-phase inverters is required. However, for the connection to the LV Distribution Network of a Solar PV System with a Maximum Connected Capacity up to 11 kW, it is permitted to use one or more single-phase/two-phase inverters, connected either phase to neutral or phase to phase according to the LV distribution system available at the Connection Point (see ANNEX C for details). In such case, if multiple single-phase/two-phase inverters are used, these shall be equally distributed over the three phases in order to limit the overall imbalance of power between the phases; the maximum current imbalance between two phases shall be lower than 16A (3.52kW at 220Vac). Communication links between the single-phase / two-phase inverters may be used to ensure this requirement.

Any extension beyond the above stated power limits will be possible by using three-phase inverters, or by single-phase / two-phase inverters which are connected through a communication link. In this latter

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case, a proper control system shall be able to re-establish the power balance between the phases and the single inverters whenever the above limit is exceeded.

DISCLAIMER

Those Consumers connected to SEC distribution network at 220/127 Vac, who decide to use single-phase inverters in a Small-Scale Solar PV System, can either opt for use of 220 Vac inverters connected phase-to-phase or 127 Vac inverters connected phase-to-neutral, provided the neutral is available in the supply (see ANNEX C). In the latter case, the inverter shall no more be usable in case the distribution network voltage level is upgraded to 400/230 Vac, whereas a 230 Vac inverter can still be used if moved to a phase-to-neutral connection and re-configured in its settings. Similarly, if three phase inverters with a nominal voltage of 220 Vac are used in either a 220/127 Vac or a 220 Vac system, an upgrade to a three-phase four-wire 400/230Vac power supply will make the inverter no more usable. The costs for either the modification of the connection and re-configuration or the replacement of the inverter, shall be entirely borne by the Consumer solely and no refund shall be claimed to and due by SEC for any reasons.

Measurement of flicker shall be done in accordance with section 7.4.

6.10 Metering System

The metering system to be installed at Consumer Premises shall be in agreement with the requirements of ECRA Regulations (Section 6), that is:

- a first digital meter (Main Meter), supplied and installed by SEC at the Connection Point, to measure both the energy injected into the Distribution Network and consumed from this one. For this reason, the meter must be bidirectional;
- a second digital meter (Solar PV System Meter), supplied and installed by SEC at the Connection Point only in case the Maximum Connected Capacity of the Small-Scale Solar PV exceeds 100kW.

The Main Meter measures the net energy at the Connection Point, whereas the Solar PV System Meter measures the energy produced by only the Small-Scale Solar PV System.

The Solar PV System Meter will be installed outside, close to the Main System Meter, until remote reading capability from SEC of this meter will be available. From that time on, Solar PV System Meters shall be installed within the Consumer Premises, as close as possible to Solar PV inverters.

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7 COMPLIANCE

The Consumer shall ensure that its Small-Scale Solar PV System complies with the requirements defined in the present standards throughout the overall lifetime of the facility.

The Consumer shall notify to SEC any incident, failure or planned modification of its Small-Scale Solar PV System which may affect the compliance with the requirements defined in the present standards.

The Consumer shall provide SEC with all the documents, studies and measurements useful to demonstrate the compliance of its Small-Scale Solar PV System to the requirements defined in the present standards.

If deemed necessary, SEC shall have the right to request the Consumer to carry out additional tests or studies with the scope to demonstrate the compliance of the Small-Scale Solar PV System with the provisions of the present document. Such activities may be requested not only during the connection process, but at any time throughout the lifetime of the Small-Scale Solar PV System, and more specifically after any failures, modifications or replacements of any equipment that may have an impact on the compliance of the System with the present standards.

ANNEX A. CONNECTION SCHEMES

The schemes proposed in this Annex show as an example possible cases of connection of Small-Scale Solar PV Systems to either LV or MV Distribution Network of SEC, to summarize in single line diagrams the clauses on the connection as presented in this document, in particular in 6.2 and 6.3. Different arrangements may be used if previously agreed with SEC.

These schemes have to be combined with the general scheme of the installation, for the feeding of the Consumer's loads.

The cases presented in the following are here listed:









Figure	Distribution Network (LV/MV)	Maximum Connected Capacity of the Small-Scale Solar PV System	Notes
9	LV	$\leq 11\text{KW}$	One three-phase inverter (or three single-phase) with integrated Interface Protection and Switch
10	LV	$> 11\text{kW}$ and $\leq 20\text{kW}$	External Interface Protection (not integrated in the inverter)
11	LV	$> 11\text{kW}$ and $\leq 20\text{kW}$	Case of Figure 9 and Figure 10 where more than one main switches are necessary in absence of one general main switch in the Consumer's installation
12	LV	$> 11\text{kW}$ and $\leq 20\text{kW}$	Multiple Solar PV Units with external and unique Interface Protection
13	LV	$> 20\text{kW}$ and $\leq 2\text{ MW}$	Multiple Solar PV Units with external and unique Interface Protection; Backup Switch required; Solar PV System Meter required if Maximum Connected Capacity of the Solar PV System $> 100\text{kW}$
14	MV	$\geq 1\text{kW}$ and $\leq 2\text{ MW}$	Multiple Solar PV Units with external and

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			unique Interface Protection; <u>Interface Protection on the LV side;</u> Backup Switch required; Solar PV System Meter required if Maximum Connected Capacity of the Solar PV System > 100kW
15	MV	$\geq 1\text{kW}$ and $\leq 2\text{ MW}$	Multiple Solar PV Units with external and unique Interface Protection; <u>Interface Protection on the MV side;</u> Backup Switch required; Solar PV System Meter required if Maximum Connected Capacity of the Solar PV System > 100kW

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The meaning of the symbols used in the single line diagrams is explained hereinafter:

LEGEND	
	SWITCH (CIRCUIT BREAKER OR CONTACTOR)
	CURRENT TRANSFORMER (CT)
	POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER (PT)
	LOAD
	INVERTER
	PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY
	POWER TRANSFORMER
	BIDIRECTIONAL ENERGY METER (4 QUADRANTS) - SMART METER

ANSI SYMBOLS FOR PROTECTIONS	
27	UNDERVOLTAGE PROTECTION
59	OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION
81	UNDERFREQUENCY (81<), OVERFREQUENCY (81>) PROTECTION
LOM	LOSS OF MAINS PROTECTION
50	INSTANTANEOUS OVERCURRENT PROTECTION
51	IDMT OVERCURRENT PROTECTION
50N/51N	EARTH FAULT CURRENT PROTECTION

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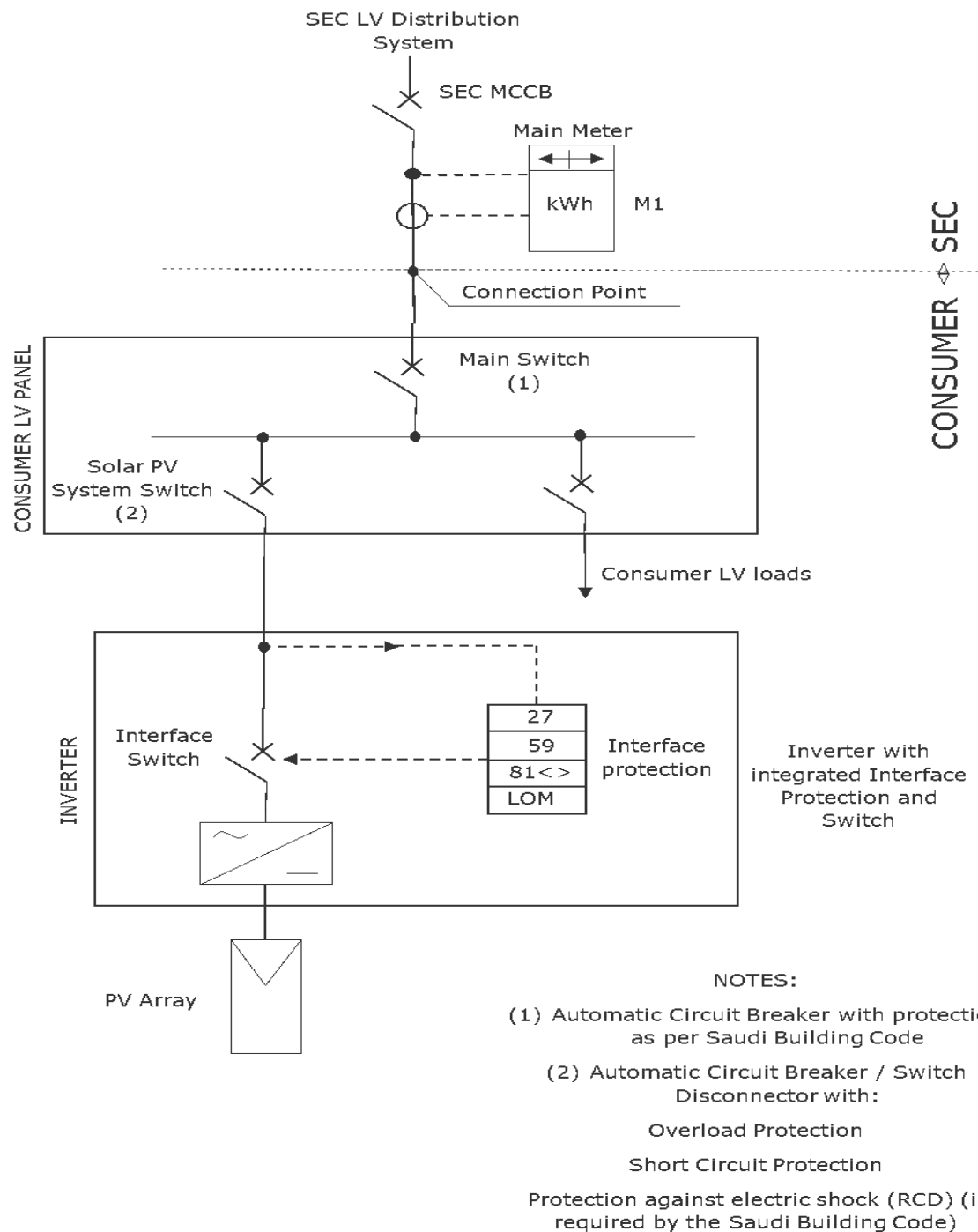


Figure 9 - LV Connection Scheme – Small-Scale Solar PV System with Maximum Connected Capacity ≤ 11kW

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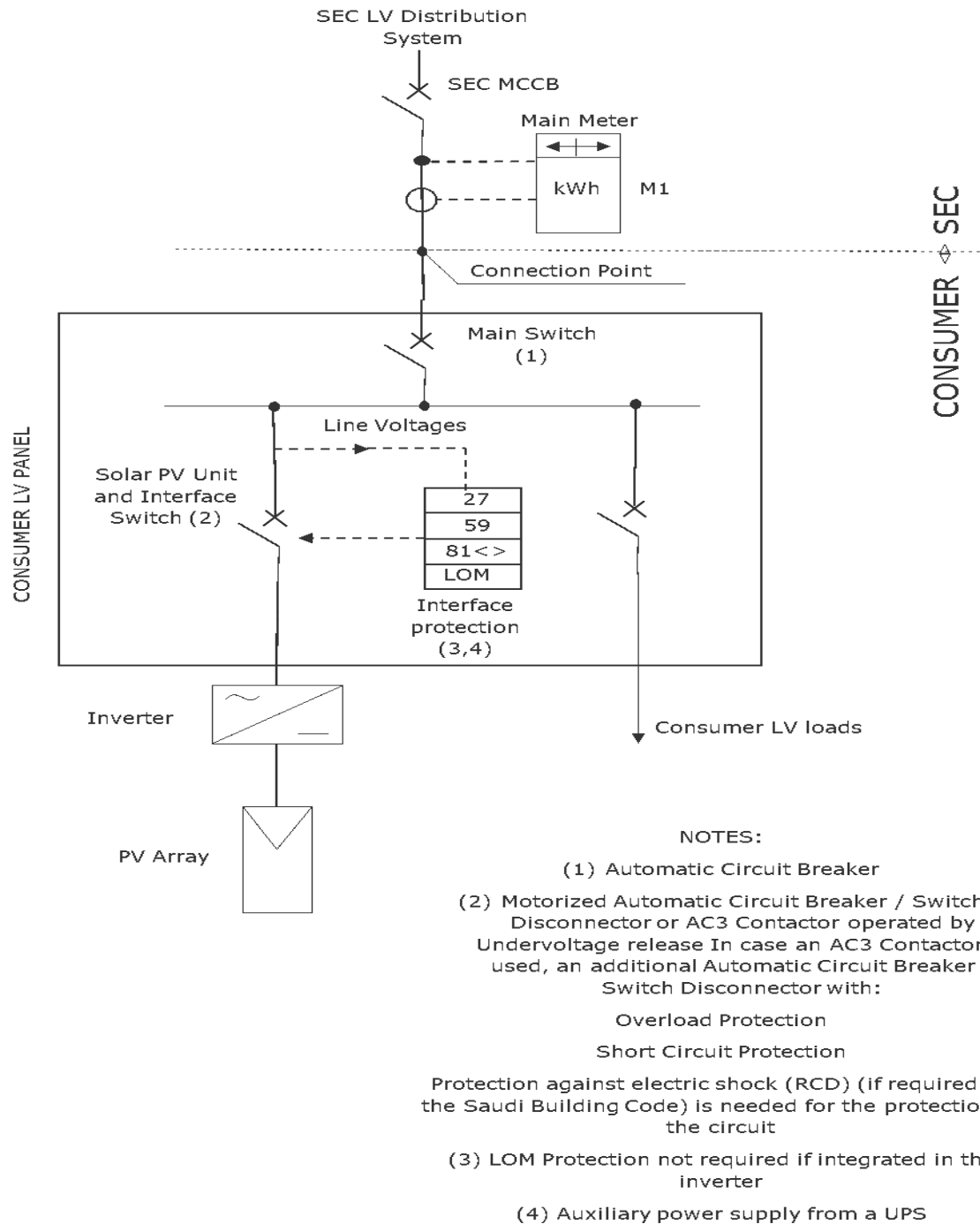


Figure 10- LV Connection Scheme – Small-Scale Solar PV System with Maximum Connected Capacity > 11kW and ≤ 20kW – External Interface Protection

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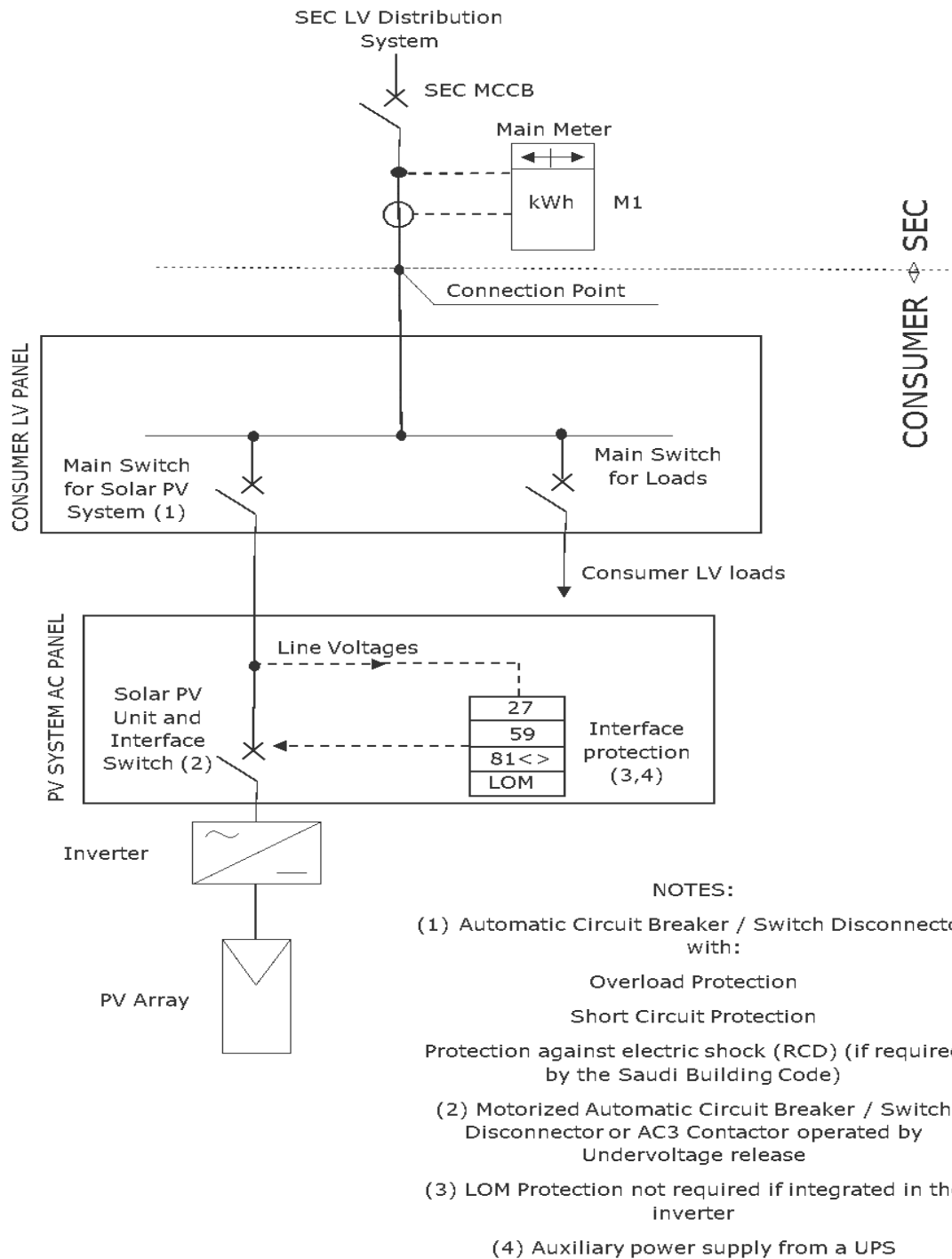
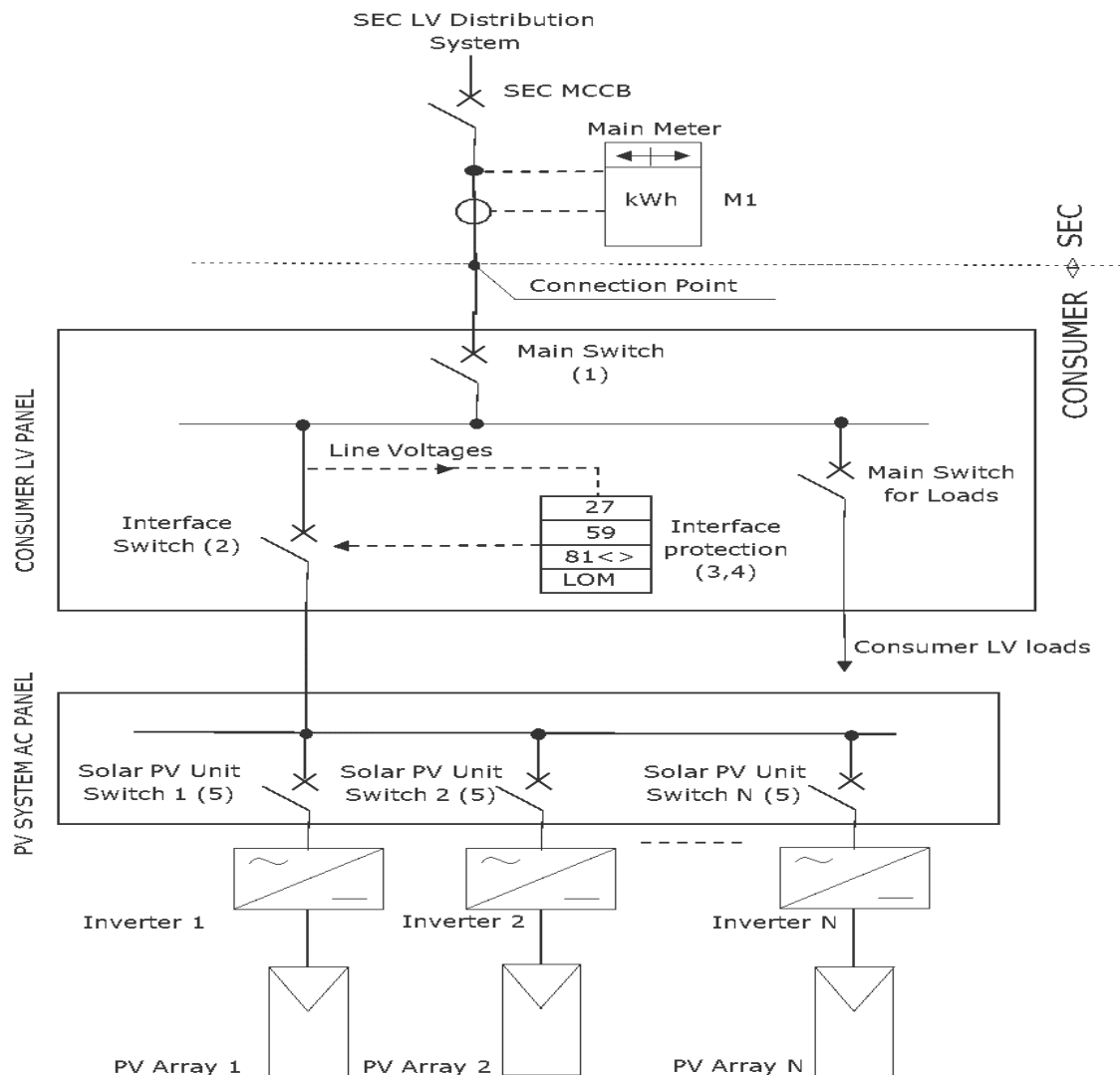


Figure 11- LV Connection Scheme – Case of Two (or more) Main Switches in absence of one general Main Switch in the incomer from SEC. (case as per Figure 9 shown, but this applies to both schemes of Figure 9 and Figure 10)

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONNECTION OF SMALL-SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS

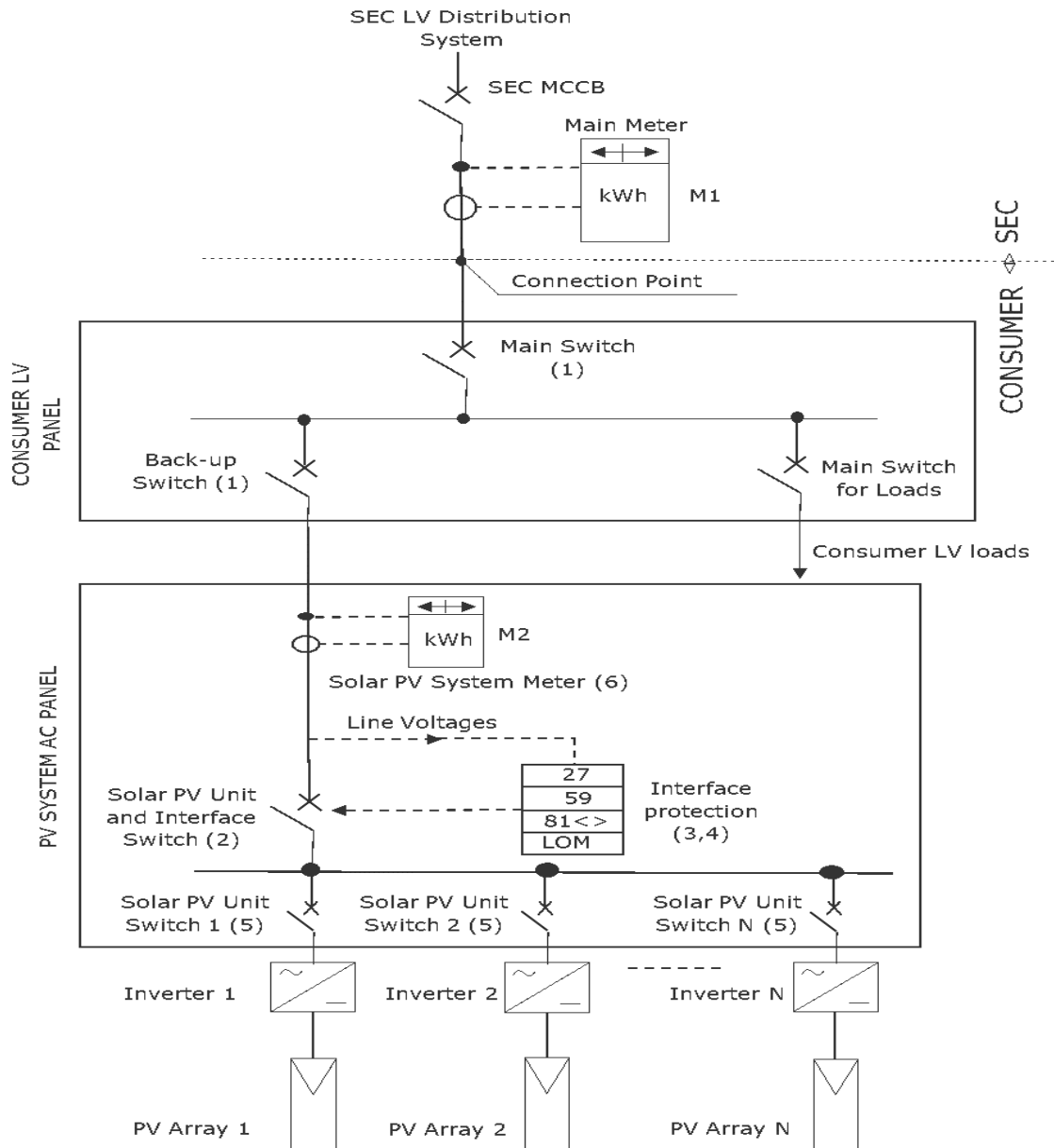


NOTES:

- (1) Automatic Circuit Breaker
- (2) Motorized Automatic Circuit Breaker / Switch Disconnecter operated by Undervoltage release, with:
 - Overload Protection
 - Short Circuit Protection
 - Protection against electric shock (RCD) (if required by the Saudi Building Code)
- (3) LOM Protection not required if integrated in each inverter
- (4) Auxiliary power supply from a UPS
- (5) Automatic Circuit Breaker or Switch Disconnecter

Figure 12- LV Connection Scheme – Small-Scale Solar PV System with Maximum Connected Capacity > 11kW and ≤ 20kW – Multiple Solar PV Units with external and unique Interface Protection

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NOTES:

- (1) Automatic Circuit Breaker / Switch Disconnecter with: Overload Protection, Short Circuit Protection, Protection against electric shock (RCD) (if required by the Saudi Building Code)
- (2) Motorized Automatic Circuit Breaker / Switch Disconnecter operated by Undervoltage release
- (3) LOM Protection not required if integrated in each inverter
- (4) Auxiliary power supply from a UPS
- (5) Automatic Circuit Breaker or Switch Disconnecter
- (6) Second Meter to be supplied by SEC for $P_{nom} > 100kW$

Figure 13 - LV Connection Scheme – Small-Scale Solar PV System with Maximum Connected Capacity > 20kW – Multiple Solar PV Units with external and unique Interface Protection; Backup Switch; Solar PV System Meter (only if Nominal Power of the Solar PV System > 100kW)

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At Consumer side, Protection Function 50N shall be available for Main Incomer Switch and MV/LV Transformer Incomer Switch same as fig 15

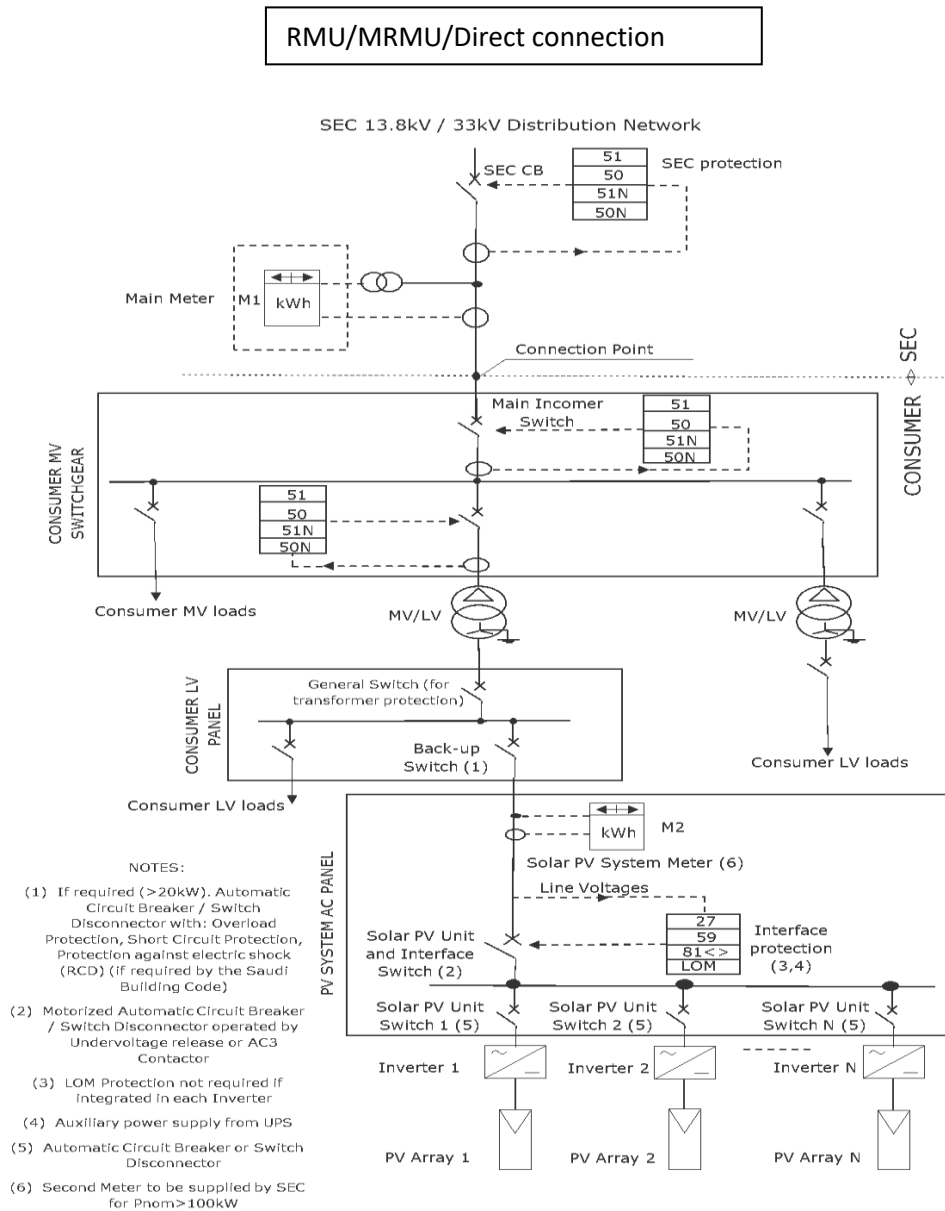


Figure 14 - MV Connection Scheme - Interface Protection on the LV side
Small-Scale Solar PV System with Maximum Connected Capacity > 20kW – Multiple Solar PV Units
with external and unique Interface Protection on the LV side; Backup Switch; Solar PV System Meter
(only if Nominal Power of the Solar PV System > 100kW)

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONNECTION OF SMALL-SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS

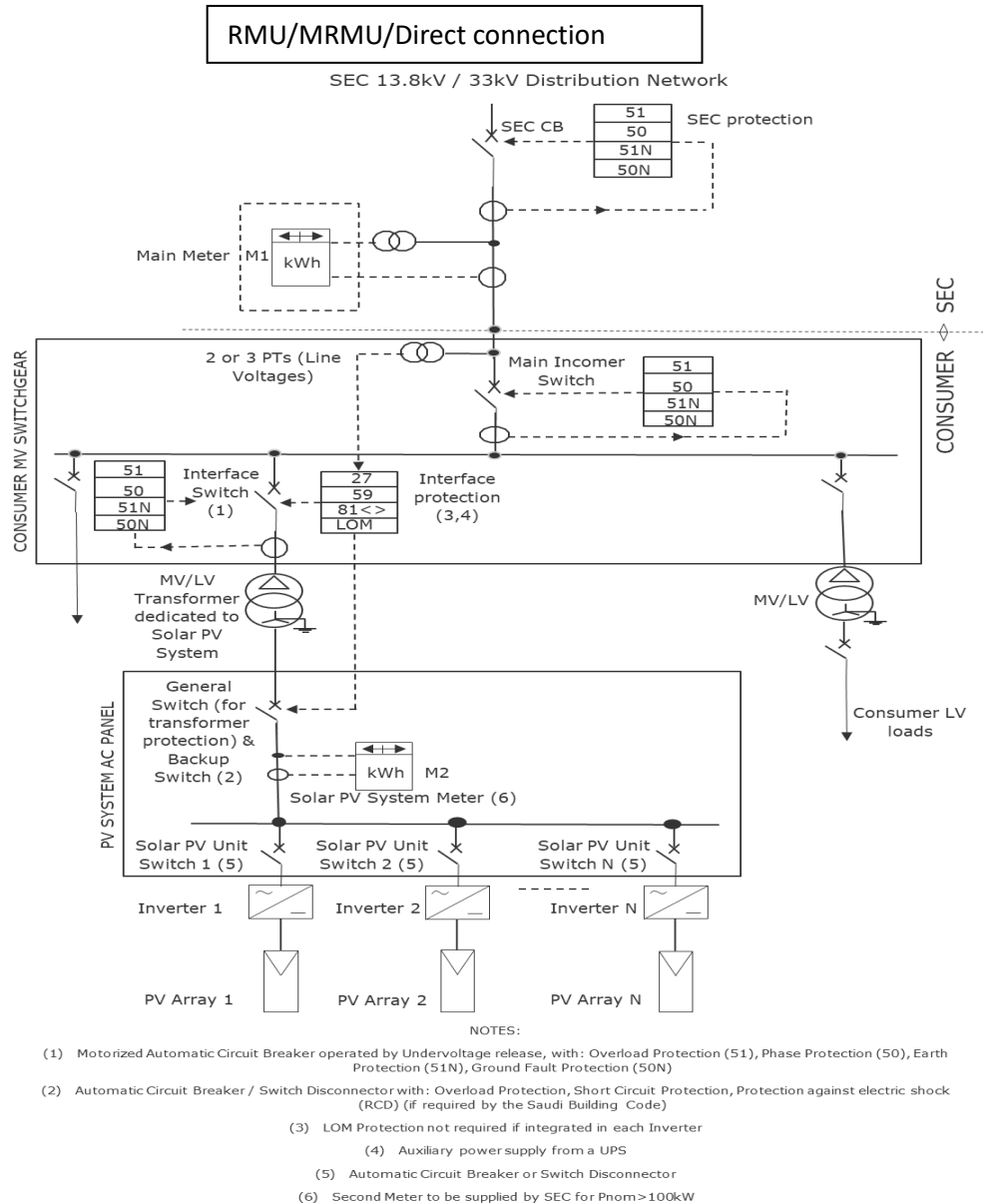


Figure 15 - MV Connection Scheme – Interface Protection on the MV side
Small-Scale Solar PV System with Maximum Connected Capacity > 20kW – Multiple Solar PV Units
with external and unique Interface Protection on the MV side; Backup Switch; Solar PV System
Meter (only if Maximum Connected Capacity of the Solar PV System > 100kW)

ANNEX B. DEFAULT SETTINGS OF INTERFACE PROTECTION

The following table reports the default settings to be implemented in the Interface Protection of Small-Scale Solar PV Systems when no other settings have been communicated by SEC.

Table 4: Default settings for the protection functions of the IP

Protection function	Settings	
	Threshold	Time delay
27<	90% Nominal Voltage	0.4 s
27<<	40% Nominal Voltage	0.3 s
59>	110% Nominal Voltage	3 s
59>>	120% Nominal Voltage	0.2 s
81>>	62.5 Hz	0.1 s
81<	57.5 Hz	1800 s
81<<	57 Hz	30 s
50	DT: current setting 7 pu	0.15 s
51	SI, current setting 1.2 pu	time dial 0.1s
50N	DT: 0.8PU A	0.0 s
51N	SI, current setting 0.1 pu	time dial 0.1 s

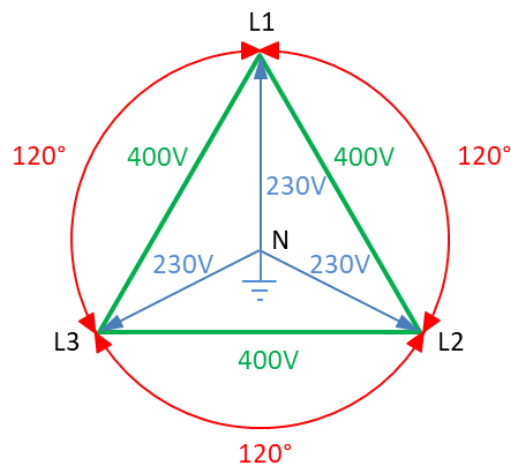
Table 5 LOM settings

Vector Shift (VS)	12 degrees	0.0s
Rate of Change of Frequency (RoCoF)	2.5 Hz per second	0.0s

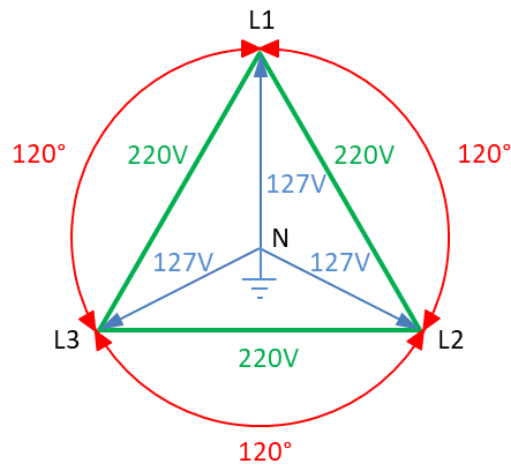
ANNEX C. CONFIGURATION OF LV DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS OF SEC

The AC power can be distributed to Consumers in the following possible ways in the LV Distribution Network of SEC. This will have to be considered in the choice of the inverter and of the equipment of Solar PV Systems connected to the LV network:

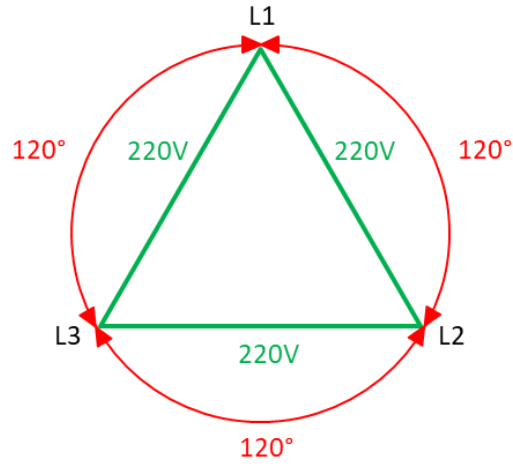
- 1) Three-phase four wires 400/230 Vac configuration



- 2) Three-phase four wires 220/127 Vac configuration



3) Three-phase three wires 220 Vac configuration



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ANNEX D. SERVICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Usual service condition in the inland, desert or coastal areas environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as follows (amended to date) are listed hereinafter:

Altitude above mean sea level (msl):	a. up to 1000m (normal) b. above 1000m (as required)
Ambient Temperature (Outdoor):	Minimum: -5 °C Maximum: 55 °C Monthly average of the hottest month: 40 °C Yearly average: 30 °C
Ambient Temperature (Indoor):	Air-conditioned buildings: 25 °C Buildings where no air-conditioning is provided: 40 °C
Ambient ground temperature:	40 °C
Maximum relative humidity:	100%
Temperature of exposed surfaces due to solar radiation:	75 °C
Soil thermal resistivity one (1) meter and below:	2.0 °C.m/W
Maximum earthquake frequency / severity:	Zone 2 (U.S. Build Code)
Soil condition– General:	Corrosive. Widespread salt deposits.
Ground water table level:	Varies from deep to very near the surface
Soil pH:	7.0 – 8.5
Salt concentrations (typical) Sulphates (SO ₃), by weight: 0 – 10 % Chlorides (as NaCl), by weight:	0 - 5%
Contamination level: Equivalent Salt Deposit Density (ESDD) in a period of any six:	0.3 to 0.5 mg/cm ²
Average hydrogen sulphide in the atmosphere:	40 Mg/m ³ (0.03 ppm)
Soil salinity:	0 to 140 g/m ³ (0 to 100000 ppm)
Average rainfall per year :	150 mm
Maximum wind velocity:	150 km/h
Approximate highest density solar radiation average over the summer months	1000 W/m ²
Isokeraunic level: (average / maximum / above 1000m):	10 /15 / 50 storm days/year

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONNECTION OF SMALL-SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS

- 1) All equipment/material and accessories shall be designed for satisfactory operation/performance based on the above (Indoor or Outdoor or Ground) service conditions.
- 2) All outdoor equipment enclosures/material shall be weatherproof and all metal parts shall be corrosion and/or abrasion resistant, and the degree of protection shall be at least IP54 as per IEC 60529 or equivalent NEMA Standard. The degree of protection for all indoor equipment shall be IP41 as per IEC 60529 or equivalent NEMA Standard.

ANNEX E. APPLICABLE STANDARDS FOR SMALL SCALE SOLAR PV SYSTEMS COMPONENTS

Along with the Technical Standards for the Connection described in the current document, all the components of Small-Scale Solar PV Systems shall comply with the applicable International and SASO standards which are listed in this Annex, according to the component they apply to.

This will ensure that components and equipment used in Small-Scale Solar PV systems in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fit with a minimum set of technical characteristics that give the necessary quality and avoid the use of unfit or unreliable material in Solar PV projects.

The list includes the standards issued by SASO at the time of publication of this document. However, standards may be subject to future revisions, amendments or extensions and it will be user's care to find the latest published versions and utilize them.

PV MODULES

- SASO IEC 61215-1:2017 – Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 1: Test requirements.
- SASO IEC 61215-1-1:2017 – Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 1-1: Special requirements for testing of crystalline silicon photovoltaic (PV) modules.
- SASO IEC 61215-1-2:2017 – Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 1-2: Special requirements for testing of thin-film Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) based photovoltaic (PV) modules.
- SASO IEC 61215-1-3:2017 – Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 1-3: Special requirements for testing of thin-film amorphous silicon based photovoltaic (PV) modules.
- SASO IEC 61215-1-4:2017 – Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 1-4: Special requirements for testing of thin-film Cu(In,Ga)(S,Se)₂ based photovoltaic (PV) modules.
- SASO IEC 61215-2:2017 – Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Design qualification and type approval - Part 2: Test procedures.
- SASO IEC 61730-1:2017 – Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification - Part 1: Requirements for construction.
- SASO IEC 61730-2:2017 – Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification - Part 2: Requirements for testing.
- SASO IEC 61701:2014 – Salt mist corrosion testing of photovoltaic (PV) modules.
- SASO IEC TS 62804-1:2017 – Photovoltaic (PV) modules - Test methods for the detection of potential-induced degradation - Part 1: Crystalline silicon.
- SASO IEC 62716:2016 – Photovoltaic (PV) modules - Ammonia corrosion testing.
- SASO IEC 62759-1:2015 – Photovoltaic (PV) modules - Transportation testing - Part 1: Transportation and shipping of module package units.
- SASO IEC 62790:2015 – Junction boxes for photovoltaic modules - Safety requirements and tests.
- SASO IEC 62852:2015 – Connectors for DC-application in photovoltaic systems - Safety requirements and tests.
- SASO IEC 62979:2018 – Photovoltaic modules - Bypass diode - Thermal runaway test.

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- SASO IEC TS 62941:2017 – Terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules - Guideline for increased confidence in PV module design qualification and type approval.
- SASO IEC TS 62782:2017 – Photovoltaic (PV) modules - Cyclic (dynamic) mechanical load testing.
- IEC 60068-2-68:1994 – Environmental testing - Part 2-68: Tests - Test L: Dust and sand.

INVERTERS

- SASO IEC 62109-1:2017 – Safety of power converters for use in photovoltaic power systems - Part 1: General requirements.
- SASO IEC 62109-2:2012 – Safety of power converters for use in photovoltaic power systems - Part 2: Particular requirements for inverters.
- EN 50530:2010 – Overall efficiency of grid connected photovoltaic inverters.
- EN 50524:2009 – Data sheet and name plate for photovoltaic inverters.
- SASO IEC 62116:2017 – Utility-interconnected photovoltaic inverters - Test procedure of islanding prevention measures.
- SASO IEC TS 62910:2017 – Utility-interconnected photovoltaic inverters - Test procedure for low voltage ride-through measurements.
- SASO IEC 62920:2018 – Photovoltaic power generating systems - EMC requirements and test methods for power conversion equipment.
- IEC 61000-3-2:2014 – Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 3-2: Limits - Limits for harmonic current emissions (equipment input current ≤ 16 A per phase).
- IEC 61000-3-12:2011 – Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) - Part 3-12: Limits - Limits for harmonic currents produced by equipment connected to public low-voltage systems with input current >16 A and ≤ 75 A per phase.

INTERFACE PROTECTIONS

- SASO IEC 62116:2017 – Utility-interconnected photovoltaic inverters – Test procedure of islanding prevention measures

SOLAR CABLES

- EN 50618:2014 – Electric cables for photovoltaic systems.
- SASO IEC 62930:2018 – Electric cables for photovoltaic systems with a voltage rating of 1.5 kV DC

PV STRING COMBINER BOXES

- EN 50178:1997 Electronic equipment for use in power installations.
- IEC 62477-1:2012+AMD1:2016 CSV Consolidated version – Safety requirements for power electronic converter systems and equipment - Part 1: General.
- SASO IEC 62093:2008 – Balance-of-system components for photovoltaic systems - Design qualification natural environments.
- IEC 61439-2:2011 – Low-voltage switchgear and controlgear assemblies - Part 2: Power switchgear and controlgear assemblies.