



Siskiyou County Community Development

Division of Building and Safety

“Am I Exempt From Having to Install Solar On My New Home Construction?”

Siskiyou County California
Mountains of Opportunity

Purpose

This bulletin provides information on the required Title 24 energy compliance forms that must be submitted to the Siskiyou County Building Division to show compliance with the California Energy Code (Title 24) for residential photovoltaic (PV) systems. These documents are also required to be registered in a California Energy Commission (CEC)–approved ECC registry. They are not submitted directly to the California Energy Commission by the applicant or the County.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What Document Controls the Project?** The Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) controls the approved project design and determines whether a photovoltaic (PV) system is required.
- **Can the Installed Project Differ from the Approved CF1R?** No. The Certificate of Installation (CF2R) must be consistent with the approved Certificate of Compliance (CF1R).
- **What if Solar is Shown on the Plans but later Determined to be Infeasible?**
A revised Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) must be submitted and approved by the Siskiyou County Building Division, and the project plans must be updated accordingly.
- **Can the Building Division accept a letter instead of a Certificate of Compliance (CF1R)?** No. A letter or narrative explanation is not a substitute for the Certificate of Compliance (CF1R). Title 24 requires compliance to be documented using approved forms. Projects without a valid Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) are not considered to be in compliance with the California Energy Code.
- **How must a Determination that Solar is Not Required be Documented?**
All determinations that a photovoltaic (PV) system is not required must be documented in the Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) using approved Title 24 compliance methods.
- **Can owner preference be used as a reason to omit solar?**
No. Owner preference is not a valid basis for omitting a required photovoltaic (PV) system.
- **Can Cost be Used as a Reason to Omit Solar?**
No. Cost considerations are not a valid basis for omitting a required photovoltaic (PV) system.
- **Can Aesthetic Concerns be Used to Omit Solar?**
No. Aesthetic concerns are not a valid basis for omitting a required photovoltaic (PV) system.
- **Where are Title 24 Energy Compliance or Exemption Documents Submitted?**
Title 24 energy compliance or exemption documents are submitted to the Siskiyou County

Building Division as part of the building permit and inspection process.

- **Are these Documents Submitted to the California Energy Commission (CEC)?**
No. Title 24 energy compliance documents are not submitted directly to the California Energy Commission (CEC) by the applicant or the County.
- **What is the ECC Registry and How is it Used?**
Title 24 energy compliance documents must be registered in a CEC-approved ECC registry (such as CalCERTS or CHEERS), which assigns a registration number and maintains the record as part of the State's compliance system.
- **What is Required for Final Inspection?** Final approval will not be granted without:
 - An approved Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) consistent with the project plans,
 - Required Certificate of Installation (CF2R) documentation, and
 - Certificate of Verification (CF3R), when applicable.
- **Will the County Accept Conflicting Documentation?**
No. The Siskiyou County Building Division will not accept Certificate of Installation (CF2R) documentation that conflicts with the approved Certificate of Compliance (CF1R).
- **Can I Download and Fill out the CF1R, CF2R, or CF3R Forms Myself?**
No. The Certificate of Compliance (CF1R), Certificate of Installation (CF2R), and Certificate of Verification (CF3R) cannot be downloaded and manually completed for submittal.
- **Why Can't These Forms be Manually Completed?**
Title 24 requires that energy compliance documentation be generated using approved compliance software and ECC registry systems. These systems perform the required energy calculations, verify consistency with the California Energy Code, and assign registration numbers when required. Manually completed forms would not include these required calculations or validations and therefore do not demonstrate compliance.
- **How do I Obtain the Required Forms?**
These documents must be prepared by qualified professionals:
 - The **Certificate of Compliance (CF1R)** is prepared by the project designer or energy consultant.
 - The **Certificate of Installation (CF2R)** is prepared by the installation contractor.
 - The **Certificate of Verification (CF3R)** is prepared by a certified ECC rater.

The applicant is responsible for obtaining these documents from the appropriate professional and submitting them to the Siskiyou County Building Division.

STEP 1: ARE YOU EXEMPT FROM INSTALLING SOLAR?

Under the California Energy Code (Title 24), photovoltaic systems are required for new residential construction unless specific conditions limit feasibility. A PV system may not be required if:

- **Insufficient solar access (shading):**
Roof areas have less than approximately 70% annual solar access due to trees, terrain, or adjacent structures.
- **Insufficient Solar Access Roof Area (SARA):**
The available solar roof area is too small (e.g., less than 80 contiguous square feet) after accounting for required setbacks and obstructions.
- **Minimum system size threshold:**
The calculated required PV system size is below the minimum threshold (typically less than 1.8 kWdc).
- **Structural or design constraints:**
The roof design or structural limitations prevent installation of a photovoltaic system.
- **Performance compliance results:**
Energy compliance modeling using approved Title 24 software demonstrates that a photovoltaic system is not required or results in a system size below the minimum threshold.
- **Additions:**
Photovoltaic systems are generally not required for additions alone unless the project triggers full compliance under Title 24.
- **Alterations or remodels:**
Photovoltaic systems are not required for alterations or interior remodels.
- **Non-low-rise residential buildings:**
The photovoltaic requirement applies to low-rise residential buildings (three stories or less). Other building types are subject to different standards.
- **Non-habitable or accessory structures:**
Photovoltaic systems are not required for accessory structures such as detached garages unless part of a new dwelling construction project.

STEP 2: IF EXEMPT FROM HAVING TO INSTALL SOLAR, WHAT DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED?

Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) — Design. If it is determined that a photovoltaic (PV) system is not required:

- The CF1R is prepared by the Designer / Energy Consultant.
- The CF1R must clearly identify the basis for exemption. Contractor statements or field determinations are not sufficient.
- The CF1R is submitted with building permit application to the Siskiyou County Building Division.

The Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) must be consistent with the project plans and prepared using approved Title 24 compliance methods. Because the project is exempt from photovoltaic (PV) system requirements, Forms CF2R and CF3R related to photovoltaic (PV) systems are not required.

**STEP 3: IF YOU ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM HAVING TO INSTALL SOLAR,
WHAT DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED?**

1. Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) — Design

The Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) shall identify the required photovoltaic (PV) system and demonstrate compliance with Title 24. The Certificate of Compliance (CF1R) must be registered in a CEC-approved ECC registry.

- Prepared by: Designer / Energy Consultant.
- Submitted: With building permit application to the Siskiyou County Building Division.

2. Certificate of Installation (CF2R) — Construction

The Certificate of Installation (CF2R) documents that the photovoltaic (PV) system has been installed consistent with the approved Certificate of Compliance (CF1R). The Certificate of Installation (CF2R) must be registered in a CEC-approved ECC registry, when required.

- Prepared by: Contractor / Installer.
- Submitted: During construction, prior to final inspection.

3. Certificate of Verification (CF3R) — ECC Verification

The Certificate of Verification (CF3R) is required when the project includes ECC measures. The Certificate of Verification (CF3R) must be registered in a CEC-approved ECC registry.

- Prepared by: Certified ECC Rater.
- Submitted: Prior to final inspection / occupancy.

Glenn Shockency, Architect. Deputy Director of Building

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Date:

2025
Code Cycle

Authority Cited:

Current applicable Building Code:

California Building Code (CBC),

California Energy Commission (CEC)

California Residential Code (CRC)

California Electrical Code (CEC, NFPA 70),

California Fire Code (CFC)

Latest version of the Residential Compliance Manual, Chapter 7 and Appendix JA11 – Qualification Requirements for Photovoltaic System