



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 14-011

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FIRE CLASSIFICATION FOR ROOF MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS AND/OR PANEL MODULES – 2013 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE SUPPLEMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is issuing this Information Bulletin to address the use of photovoltaic solar systems and/or panel modules in areas outside the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The adoption of UL 1703 with revisions through October 25, 2013 and the Emergency Rulemaking that delayed the effective date to January 1, 2015 of the adoption were intended to focus on the areas that require Class A or Class B roofing (SRA and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones). Where Class A or Class B roofing is required, the photovoltaic solar system (photovoltaic panels with the rack support system) shall have a Class A or Class B rating, respectively.

Areas in California that only require a minimum Class C roofing due to statutory provision contained in Health and Safety Code 13132.7 should not be impacted by the early adoption of UL 1703. Those buildings and structures requiring Class C roofing should be able to have installed one of the following and meet the intent of the 2013 California Building Standards Code:

1. Photovoltaic panels and modules having a Class C rating under the previous version of UL 1703 (2002 edition with revisions through April 2008), or
2. Photovoltaic panels and modules having a Class C rating complying with UL 790 (2004 edition with revisions through October 2008), or
3. Photovoltaic systems having a minimum Class C rating under the most recent version of UL 1703 (2002 edition with revisions through October 2013).

Fire classification of photovoltaic solar systems and panels shall be marked with their fire classification rating, Class A, B, or C.

Questions or comments regarding this Information Bulletin should be directed to Division Chief Kevin Reinertson, Code Development and Analysis at (916) 327-4998, or by electronic mail to kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov.