

APRIL 2026, V1

Attributes and competencies required for EECA approved solar installers

A technical guide to support
the approval of suitable solar
system installers

Background and purpose

EECA's mission is to mobilise New Zealanders to be world leaders in clean and clever energy use, and as part of this EECA has a strategic focus to [accelerate renewable energy](#).

The uptake of renewable energy can support energy security and energy affordability.

To support the uptake of solar, installers must be able to demonstrate they design, install and operate their business to a level of competence that meets or exceeds industry best practice.

This document specifically focuses on requirements for EECA approving and endorsing suitable programmes that accredit installers of solar PV systems and batteries.

For solar systems to work optimally it is essential that solar installers are experienced at being able to select suitable systems to fit the customer's circumstances and needs, as well as undertaking a safe and high-quality installation.

EECA have put together a list of key attributes and requirements for installers to be assessed and approved, in order to support the uptake of efficient and effective solar generation.

The key objectives of these requirements are to:

- Enhance the safety, efficiency and reliability of photovoltaic (PV) installations.
- Promote industry best practices in the design, installation, and integration of solar PV systems.
- Establish and maintain a qualified network of skilled designers and installers.
- Support wider adoption of renewable energy by increasing owner confidence in the quality and performance of solar PV solutions.

[EECA research has shown](#) that when considering buying solar systems customers frequently report being overwhelmed by conflicting or overly technical information. Trust in sources is a major concern, not just in the messenger but whether information is current. An EECA-endorsed accreditation programme helps build trust.

Approach and application

To provide a level of assurance to those people seeking to have a solar PV system installed, EECA has worked with key stakeholders to produce a draft list of what are considered suitable criteria for a good solar installer.

EECA believes an accreditation programme must cover three key areas:

- **Business/operational attributes and competence criteria** outline the key requirements for an installer.
- **Design and quote criteria** focuses on the robustness and clarity needed for design and quoting for local conditions.
- **Installation criteria** lays out the reasonable expectations for installation and aftersales support.

Should a solar installer be able to demonstrate their ability to meet these criteria, they elevate themselves above others. In a rapidly developing market, with green loan providers and Government-led programmes looking for assurance with installer quality, an accreditation will hold credibility with any customer looking to install solar.

Rather than directly endorsing installers, EECA will work with industry and endorse programmes that provide the service.

EECA will invite applications from any industry accreditation programme provider and will endorse those that meet the minimum requirements.

For continuing endorsement, programme providers must be open to third-party audits of installations to satisfy EECA that the criteria are being met.

Delivery and administration

The next step for EECA is to finalise the criteria that are currently in draft form. To achieve this, EECA will work with industry stakeholders to build upon the draft list. The list of the individual components of the criteria is provided in Appendix 1.

Once finalised, EECA will invite initial applications from programme providers.

Initial application

Potential accreditation programme providers will need to submit an application form, along with supporting evidence, to demonstrate that they satisfy each of the applicable criteria for assessment by EECA.

Once satisfied, EECA will endorse the programme.

Ongoing endorsement of programme

Any accreditation programme that wishes to remain endorsed by EECA must make available their programme criteria and individual solar installers for audit purposes. EECA will seek a third-party auditor to periodically and randomly assess installers who are members of the programme, covering the following key aspects:

- receiving applications from potential installers wishing to become accredited under the programme,
- assessing if the applicant meets the programme's performance criteria, and if they have provided sufficient support evidence that they satisfy these criteria,
- undertaking targeted quality assurance checks at periodic intervals to ensure that installers are still meeting the performance criteria,
- advising EECA if any installers are not satisfying the programmes requirements, and
- providing timely updates to EECA when installers are added to, or removed from, the accreditation programme.

Legal requirements

This document does not replace requirements for a solar system to meet any and all legal requirements, and these must be supplied and installed in accordance with all relevant components of the [Building Act 2004](#), [Building Regulations 1992](#) (The Building code), [Electricity \(Safety\) Regulations 2010](#), [Electricity Act 1992](#), [Wiring Rules](#), [Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010](#), and any other legislative requirements at the time that it was installed.

Revisions to criteria

The criteria may evolve over time as technology and standards develop. Any revision to this, or related specifications, will have a suitable notification and transition period.

Appendix 1 – Draft criteria

There are three key attributes that solar PV installers must be able to demonstrate:

- **Business/operational attributes and competence criteria** - outline the key requirements for an installer.
- **Design and quote criteria** - focuses on the robustness and clarity needed for design and quoting for local conditions.
- **Installation criteria** - lays out the reasonable expectations for installations and aftersales support.

Any solar accreditation provider looking to be endorsed by EECA must prove their programme meets the minimum requirements as laid out below.

Core attributes and competence criteria

- The company director is demonstrably a fit and proper person (not bankrupt with the last 5 years, subject to MoJ check etc.)
- The installer has signed onto “Code of conduct” requirements as set out by the accreditation provider.
- All electrical work is supervised and approved by a registered electrician with a current practicing licence and inspected by an independent inspector as required.
- Has proof of adequate current liability insurance for the works, to the value of no less than \$2,000,000.
- All staff, including sub-contractors, who are working at heights must be adequately trained and supervised where necessary.
- Has adequate H&S training and processes in place for assessing and mitigating risks to an acceptable level.
- The installer has a continual professional development programme in place to ensure that all key staff maintain the necessary relevant skills and qualifications.

Design and quote criteria

- Proof of competence and knowledge of required specific standards and Building Code (may require completion of specific learning modules as specified by third-party accreditor).
- Provide full specifications of the system including quantity, make and model number of the solar modules and inverter/s.
- Provide a site-specific full system design including all shading issues, orientation and tilt, along with the system’s site-specific energy yield, including average daily performance estimate in kWh for each month of solar generation.
- Ensure all solar hardware components meets required technical specifications.

- Ensure array design will fit on available roof space.
- Ensure array mounting frame installation will comply with AS/NZS1170.2.
- Ensure array configuration is compatible with the inverter specification.
- Ensure all equipment is fit for purpose and correctly rated.
- Obtain warranty information on all equipment.
- Ensure compatibility of system with local EDBs.
- Pricing on quote is transparent and itemised.
- Claims of system performance and ROI are reasonable and well-referenced.
- Consideration given to roof condition before recommending installation. Existing roof may require maintenance or replacement before proceeding.

Installation criteria

- Proof of competence and knowledge of required specific standards and Building Code (may require completion of specific learning modules as specified by third-party accreditor).
- Hardware installed matches the quoted items, unless first modelled in design and approved by customer.
- Installed in accordance with both the Building Code and the manufacturer specifications.
- Installation does not impact weathertightness of the roof.
- Installation does not allow access for vermin or birds to the roof space.
- Installation allows for space for roof cleaning and maintenance in accordance with Publicly Available Specification - Residential solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage systems guideline 6014:2025.
- PV system commissioned and working before leaving site, or next steps clearly communicated.
- Customer walked through system usage and maintenance requirements post-commissioning.
- All rubbish removed from site.
- Aftersales support guarantee in place for troubleshooting.

Further considerations

Any solar accreditation provider would need to have their developed criteria assessed by EECA to satisfy that it meets the minimum requirements laid out in this guidance document.

Periodic assessments by independent auditors would likely be required to maintain ongoing approval by EECA. These assessments may come at a cost to the programme provider.

Audits

As part of this programme, EECA may employ independent auditors to assess the quality of a number of solar installations after they have been completed. As part of this programme, EECA or the programme's third-party accreditor may employ independent auditors to assess the quality of a number of solar installations, after they have been completed.

Installers must make themselves available to attend site with the auditors and be able to answer any reasonable questions that the auditor may have about the installation.

Following this, the auditors will issue an assessment report based on their findings.

If the report includes any corrective actions, installers must undertake to rectify these action points at their own expense within the specified timeframe. Failure to do so may result in the installer being removed from the programme.

