



Domestic solar panel installation

Compliance and enforcement priority 2021/22

Why is solar panel installation a priority?	<p>The Victorian Government's \$1.3 billion solar rebate program is enabling unprecedented solar panel and battery investment by Victorian households and small businesses. Our role is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure installations comply with applicable standards and are safe.• Educate the community about the importance of solar installation maintenance to avoid potential fires.
Who has the compliance obligation?	Registered Electrical Contractors; Licensed electricians and Licensed Electrical Inspectors (LEI).
How does the hazard or non-compliance occur?	Electrical workers and LEIs failing to install and test solar systems to minimum technical standards may result in unsafe systems.
What compliance action will ESV take?	<p>ESV will inspect solar installations (residential and small commercial premises, and battery installations) to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective supervision of electrical workers (including apprentices).• Electrical workers are appropriately licensed.• Compliance with technical standards (where applicable).• Application of safe electrical work practices. <p>ESV is currently piloting a LEI 'roof only' inspection regime.</p> <p>ESV collects data on non-compliant solar installations to inform industry via forums and the ESV website.</p>
What enforcement action may ESV take?	<p>ESV will act on unsafe solar systems by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directing registered electrical contractors to carry out rectification works at their expense and within an appropriate time frame.• Issuing warning letters where appropriate to provide an incentive to compliance.• Prosecuting where serious safety risks are identified, where there is reckless conduct or where otherwise considered appropriate having regard to the nature, severity and gravity of the offence.• Restricting, suspending, and/or cancelling registration for electrical contractors who fail to address compliance and work practice issues associated with their electrical workers and community safety.• Restricting, suspending and/or cancelling licences for electrical workers who fail to address compliance issues associated with their work.
What are the targets?	Inspecting 650 solar installations (residential and small commercial premises, and battery installations).
What will ESV measure?	<p>Reductions in unsafe installations.</p> <p>ESV will collect data from inspections that involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective supervision of electrical workers (including apprentices).• Appropriate electrical worker licensing.• Compliance with technical standards.• The application of safe electrical work practices. <p>Solar Victoria will audit completed solar installations and provide ESV with the compliance data.</p>
Who will ESV work with?	Solar Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), industry representatives (the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA), Master Electricians Australia, the Institute of Electrical Inspectors (IEI), and the Clean Energy Council.