



June 11, 2018

Dear Solar Panel Contractors:

Please see the new directive below issued by the South Carolina Residential Builders Commission.

From: South Carolina Residential Builders Commission

Sent: Friday, June 08, 2018 6:10 PM

To: Gunter, Manuel

Subject: Solar Panel Installers Registration Requirement

Dear Building Officials:

The South Carolina Residential Builders Commission ("Commission") would like to bring to your attention a recent [amendment](#) to its regulation, S.C. Reg. 106-1, effective May 25, 2018.

Under this amendment, "solar panel installers" has been added as a classification for residential specialty contractors. Please note that while a person holding a residential specialty contractor registration for "solar panel installer" is authorized to fabricate, assemble, install, and replace solar panels and related building components, the actual roof mounting of such panels may only be performed by a licensed residential builder, registered residential specialty contractor with a roofer classification, or a licensed general contractor with a general roofing or specialty roofing classification. Likewise, the wiring of the solar panels and other electrical connections must be performed by a licensed residential builder, a licensed residential electrician, or a licensed mechanical contractor with an electrical classification. Finally, if the roof requires any structural upgrades for the mounting and installation of the solar panels, the structural upgrades must be performed by a licensed residential builder, a registered residential specialty contractor with a classification in carpentry, or a licensed general contractor with building or structural framing classifications.

The Commission hopes that this regulation change clarifies any issues that building code departments may have had or are experiencing with solar panel installations, as well as assists the code officials in identifying appropriate permitting requirements for projects involving solar panels.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission with any questions you may have concerning this regulatory amendment.

What this means to you:

Beginning June 11, 2018

1. Solar Panel installations will require two permits – a Building Permit and an Electrical Permit
2. The Building Permit will cover the physical installation of the solar panels to the roof and can only be issued to a contractor licensed by the State with one of building/roofing classifications listed in the amendment above and have a current City of North Augusta Business License
3. An Electrical Permit will only be issued to a contractor licensed by the State with one of electrical classifications listed in the amendment above and have a current City of North Augusta Business License
4. The fee for each of the two permits will be based on the dollar value of the project so you must separate the value of the wiring and the roof-top installation between the two permits
5. The solar panel application package must include two full sets of plans 11" x 17" minimum, engineers' letter certifying roof integrity, building permit application and electrical permit application