

Ensure that your solar dealer is properly licensed and insured!

Solar electricity is one of the safest investments available today. However, some purchasers of solar systems are unnecessarily taking on a major risk by not taking the simple steps to ensure that their systems are designed and installed by a properly licensed and insured solar company. They are risking poorly performing systems and invalidating their insurance.

Because the solar electric industry is so new in Florida, many solar companies are not properly licensed and insured. Additionally, the local utilities and permitting agencies are still getting up to speed on the legal requirements, so this illegal work is going unnoticed.



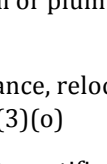
The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the importance of having a licensed professional engineer design the system. In order to receive the cash grant in lieu of a credit, *“All applicants must submit as-built, legible design plans stamped by a professional engineer (PE). For solar electric property, submit a one-line diagram and site/array layout.”*

Fortunately, the state statutes are clear on the requirements and it is easy to verify the licenses and insurances of a solar company. Check their licenses with the appropriate agencies. For example, some companies will say they have an engineer on staff, but fail to say that they are not licensed in Florida. Or they will say that a licensed professional performs their design, but they are only referring to the wind load and not the electrical design. If a company is unable or unwilling to provide the appropriate documentation listed in the table on the following page then find someone who will!

Solar Impact strives to meet or exceed all licensing and insurance requirements. For example, we use roofers to perform roof penetrations on residential solar systems, even though this is only required for commercial systems. We use electrical contractors for both the AC and DC electrical work, even though this is only required for the AC portion. Our goal is to give you the best possible system for the best possible price.

Check engineering, architecture, and contractor licenses at
www.myFlorida.com/dbpr and click on “Verify a License”

Check North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Certifications at
www.nabcep.org and click on “Installer Locator”

	Solar Impact Team	Others	Notes
Solar Design			
Licenses			
FL Licensed Professional Engineer or Architect	FL licensed professional engineer (PE # 51402) with PhD		Electrical contractors can design electrical portion of systems costing less than \$50,000. ¹ Solar contractors cannot legally design any solar systems. ²
Certificates			
NABCEP PV Certification or FSEC - Installing PV Systems Course	NABCEP PV Certified (091209-91) FSEC Course Completed		Designer must have one of these for GRU solar feed-in tariff.
Insurance			
Errors and Omissions Design Insurance	\$1 million "errors & omissions"		Most contractors do not carry this policy because it is expensive and they don't qualify for it.
Solar Installation			
Licenses			
FL Licensed Solar Contractor FL Licensed Roofing Contractor FL Licensed Electrical Contractor	FL licensed solar (CVC56761) FL licensed roofing subcontractor FL licensed electrical (EC1706)		Roofing contractor required for all existing commercial buildings. ³ Roofing or solar contractor required for all existing residential buildings. ⁴ Solar contractor can install DC portion of residential solar electrical system. ⁴ Electrical contractor required for all commercial buildings. ⁵
Insurance			
General Liability Insurance Workers Compensation Insurance	\$2 million general liability \$100,000 workers comp insurance		

¹ An electrical contractor can perform designs for projects that "requires an electrical or plumbing or air-conditioning and refrigeration system with a value of \$50,000 or less." -- FL Statute 471.003(2)(h)(1)

² A solar contractor's services "consist of the installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, relocation, or replacement of solar panels." There are no provisions for solar contracts to perform design work. -- FL Statute 489.105(3)(o)

³ A contractor shall subcontract all roofing work, "unless such contractor holds a state certificate or registration in the respective trade category, however a general, building, or residential contractor shall not be required to subcontract the installation, or repair made under warranty, of wood shingles, wood shakes, or asphalt or fiberglass shingle roofing materials on a new building of his or her own construction." -- FL Statute 489.113(3)

⁴ A solar contractor shall not be required to subcontract minor electrical, mechanical, plumbing, or roofing work "so long as that work is within the scope of the license held by the solar contractor and where such work exclusively pertains to the installation of residential solar energy equipment." -- FL Statute 489.113(2)(f)

⁵ Solar contractors may install wiring "in an interactive system that operates parallel with a primary source of electrical energy, this work is limited to the PV supply side of the power conditioning unit." -- FL Administrative Code - 61G4-15.021(3)(d)