2015 ISEP™

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY PROVISIONS™

Includes all I-Code solar energy provisions, plus SRCC Standards 100, 300 and 600

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PREFACE

The International Code Council develops model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process. The codes are founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new building designs. The International Codes® (I-Codes®) are chosen by most U.S. communities and many global markets for the design, construction and administration of safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures, including solar energy systems. As solar technologies have matured, become more cost effective and more mainstream, solar provisions have been featured throughout the I-Codes.

This 2015 *International Solar Energy Provisions*™ (ISEP™) brings together in one, easy-to-use format all solar energy provisions found throughout the 2015 I-Codes for both solar thermal and photovoltaic energy systems. These provisions are fully coordinated with those already in the I-Codes, including the *International Building Code*®, *International Energy Conservation Code*®, *International Fire Code*®, *International Mechanical Code*®, *International Plumbing Code*®, *International Residential Code*® and the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*™, thereby simplifying implementation. Adoption of the family of the 2015 I-Codes by a jurisdiction would include all of the provisions found in this document.

Modeled after the format of the *International Energy Conservation Code*® (IECC®), the commercial and residential sections are separate and distinct, each including administrative provisions, definitions, general regulations, and system-specific requirements for solar thermal (or solar heating and cooling) and photovoltaic system types. Provisions for typical water heaters and other heating or cooling systems have also been included because they may be used as backup or in hybrid solar systems. For electrical requirements, reference is made to NFPA 70, the *National Electrical Code*, as published by the National Fire Protection Association.

In addition to the 2015 *International Solar Energy Provisions*, this document includes three standards from the Solar Rating & Certification Corporation (SRCC). These standards are referenced by the *International Residential Code* and have been reprinted, with permission, in their entirety. They include: SRCC 100, *Minimum Standards for Solar Thermal Collectors*; SRCC 300, *Minimum Standards for Solar Water Heating Systems*; and SRCC 600, *Minimum Standards for Solar Thermal Concentrating Collectors*. Additional resources such as sample permitting forms and basic principles from the U.S. Department of Energy make the 2015 ISEP the most comprehensive document for solar energy provisions/standards in the nation.

Letter Designations

The 2015 ISEP is divided into two distinct parts: Part CS, Commercial Solar Energy; and Part RS, Residential Solar Energy. The section numbers in Part CS are preceded by capital letters CS (e.g., CS101.1) to indicate commercial provisions. Section numbers in Part RS are preceded by capital letters RS (e.g., RS101.1) to indicate residential provisions. In parentheses immediately following the ISEP section numbers are the code acronym and section number from the original *International Code* source, according to the following list:

(IBC): International Building Code;

(IECC): International Energy Conservation Code;

(IFC): International Fire Code;

(IMC): International Mechanical Code;

(IPC): International Plumbing Code;

(ISPSC): International Swimming Pool and Spa Code;

(R): International Residential Code – Building Provisions;

(M): International Residential Code – Mechanical Provisions;

(N): International Residential Code – Energy Provisions; and

(P): International Residential Code –Plumbing Provisions.

Format Designations

Because the ISEP provisions are a compilation, the original text often contains language referencing back to the source code itself. However, such provisions also apply to the ISEP as a whole. When the phrase [this code] or [this chapter] is shown in brackets, it denotes a reference to the ISEP as a collection of the same relevant code provisions.

Supporting, clarifying or contextual notes have been added throughout the document to aid in understanding. So as not to be confused with the code text, and for purposes of easy identification, these notes are shown directly under the section, indented and in an italicized font.

Italicized Terms

Selected terms set forth in Chapter 2, Definitions, are italicized where they appear in code text. Where a term's definition is especially key or necessary to understanding a particular code provision, the term is shown in italics. This is true only for those terms that have a meaning that is unique to the code. The terms selected have definitions that the user should read carefully to facilitate better understanding of the code.

The 2015 ISEP Definitions chapters are not intended as all-inclusive lists of the italicized terms in the *International Codes*. Only those italicized terms directly related to solar energy systems have been included and defined in the 2015 ISEP chapters. Where terms are italicized and not defined herein, the definitions can be found in the corresponding source code document.

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