
**NOTICE: Acceptance of module connectors
provided as part of a listed component of a
photo voltaic system**

Code requirements related to photovoltaic (PV) installations have been addressed by the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code since 1984. Article 690.33(C) of the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code requires connectors used with PV modules for direct series connection shall be of the latching or locking type. In April 2008, this requirement was expanded by adding the additional requirement that the latching or locking mechanisms be of the type that can only be separated by a tool when a PV system is being installed in a location that is “readily accessible”. This new requirement may be met in several different ways.

The new latching or connection requirements are only required for those PV systems installed in areas that are readily accessible. The Oregon Electrical Specialty Code defines readily accessible locations as those locations capable of being reached quickly for operation, renewal or inspection without having to climb over or remove obstacles, or resort to the use of portable ladders. Readily accessible installations are those installations that a person can walk up to and are in arms reach.

Currently, there is existing inventory in the state that does not have this type of locking mechanism. Jurisdictions may allow PV systems with latching or locking connectors that can be separated manually or with out a tool to be installed through December 31, 2008.

Between December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2009, PV systems in readily accessible areas with factory installed leads and connectors that can be separated manually or with out a tool may be installed with an appropriate nylon cable tie or other securing mechanism.

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