

# SUN2EARTH SOLAR PV MODULE

## Installation and User Manual



DATE: 20/02/2015

This manual applies to photovoltaic modules ("PV modules", also commonly known as solar panels) manufactured by SUN2EARTH SOLAR.

### INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing Sun2Earth Solar as your PV module provider. We appreciate your business! This manual contains important information pertaining to the electrical and mechanical installation and maintenance of PV modules, and contains safety information that you must read carefully and be familiar with before handling, installing, and/or maintaining Sun2Earth Solar PV modules.

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This Installation and User Manual is available in different languages. In cases of discrepancy between versions, the English language version shall control.

Failure to comply with the requirements listed in this manual will invalidate the Limited Warranty for PV Modules as provided by Sun2Earth Solar at the time of sale to the direct customer. Additional recommendations are provided to enhance safety practices and performance results. Please provide a copy of this manual to the PV system owner for their reference, and inform them of all relevant aspects of safety, operation, and maintenance.

### SAFETY

#### General

You must understand and follow all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and standards for building construction, electrical design, fire, and safety, and must check with local authorities to determine applicable permitting requirements before attempting to install or maintain PV modules.

Rooftop PV systems should only be installed on dwellings that have been formally analyzed for structural integrity, and confirmed to be capable of handling the additional weighted load of PV system components, including PV modules, by a certified building specialist or engineer.



For your safety, do not attempt to work on a rooftop until safety precautions have been identified and taken, including without limitation fall protection measures, ladders or stairways, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

For your safety, do not install or handle PV modules under adverse conditions, including without limitation strong or gusty winds, and wet or frosted roof surfaces.

The flat-plate PV module construction consists of a laminated assembly of solar cells encapsulated within an insulating material with a rigid glass surface and an insulated substrate. The laminated assembly is supported by an aluminium frame that is also used for mounting the module. See Figure 1 for an illustration of the PV module components.

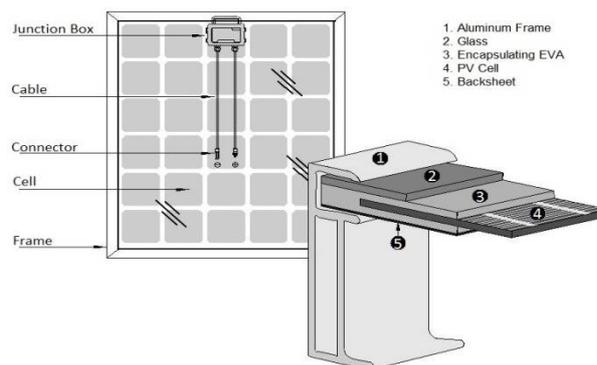


Figure 1: Module components and cross-section of the laminated assembly

#### Electrical

PV modules can produce current and voltage when exposed to light of any intensity. Electrical current increases with higher light intensity. DC voltage of 30 Volts or higher is potentially lethal. Contacting the live circuitry of a PV system operating under light can result in lethal electric shock.



De-energize PV modules by removing them entirely from light or by covering their front surface with an opaque material. Regard the safety regulations for live electrical equipment when working with modules that are exposed to any light. Use insulated tools and do not wear metallic jewellery while working with PV modules.

In order to avoid arcing and electrical shock, do not disconnect electrical connections under load. Faulty connections can also result in

arcing and electrical shock. Keep connectors dry and clean, and ensure that they are in proper working condition. Never insert metallic objects into the connectors, or modify them in any way in order to secure an electrical connection.

Do not touch or handle PV modules with broken glass, separated frames or a damaged back sheet unless the PV modules are first disconnected and you are wearing proper PPE. Avoid handling PV modules when they are wet unless cleaning the PV modules as directed in this manual. Never touch electrical connections that are wet without protecting yourself with insulated gloves.

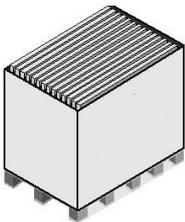
## Transport and Handling

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules must be transported in the supplied packaging only and kept in the packaging until they are ready to be installed. Protect pallets against movement and exposure to damage during transportation. Secure pallets from falling over. Do not exceed the maximum height of pallets to be stacked, as indicated on the pallet packaging. Store pallets in a cool and dry location until the PV modules are ready to be unpackaged.

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules are heavy, and should be handled with care. PV modules shall be handled at the frame; never use the junction box or cables as a grip. Do not exert mechanical stress on the cables. Never step on PV modules or drop or place heavy objects on them. Be careful when placing PV modules on hard surfaces, and secure them from falling. Broken glass can result in personal injury. PV modules with broken glass cannot be repaired and must not be used. Broken or damaged PV modules must be handled carefully and disposed of properly.

For unpacking PV modules from the Sun2Earth Solar supplied packaging, first remove the pallet lid (after removing securing straps, if provided). Remove PV modules one at a time by sliding them up the channel in the package (see Figure 3). You may need to secure the remaining PV modules in the pallet packaging to prevent them from falling over.

Figure 2: Pallet of PV modules

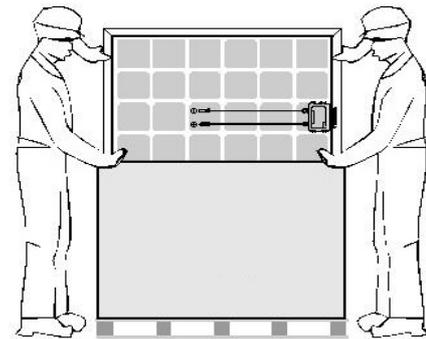


Check PV modules for damage due to transportation before they are installed; do not install damaged modules. Contact the company you purchased the Sun2Earth Solar PV modules from in order to obtain information on making claims for defective PV modules.

PV module surfaces are susceptible to damage that could affect the performance or safety of the PV module; do not damage or scratch the PV module surfaces, and do not apply paint or adhesive to any of the surfaces, including the frame. For your safety, do not disassemble or modify the Sun2Earth Solar PV modules in any way. Doing so may degrade performance or cause irreparable damage and will void any applicable warranties.

If it is necessary to store PV modules prior to installation, the PV modules should remain inside the packaging and protected from exposure that could compromise the durability of the packaging.

Figure -3:  
Removing PV modules  
from a pallet



for this  
building.

## Fire

When PV modules are mounted on rooftops, the roof must have a fire resistant covering suitable application. PV modules are electrical generating devices that may affect the fire safety of a building. The use of improper installation methods and/or defective parts may result in the unexpected occurrence of an electrical arc during operation.

In order to mitigate the risk of fire in this event, PV modules should not be installed near flammable liquids, gases, or locations with hazardous materials.

In the event of a fire, PV modules may continue to produce a dangerous voltage, even if they have been disconnected from the inverter, have been partly or entirely destroyed, or the system wiring has been compromised or destroyed. In the event of fire, inform the fire crew about the particular hazards from the PV system, and stay away from all elements of the PV system during and after a fire until the necessary steps have been taken to make the PV system safe.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

### Application Restrictions

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules must be mounted on appropriate mounting structures positioned on suitable buildings, the ground, or other structures suitable for PV modules (e.g. carports, building facades or PV trackers). PV modules must not be mounted on moving vehicles of any kind. Sun2Earth Solar PV modules must not be installed in locations where they could be submerged in water.

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules must not be sited in locations where aggressive substances such as salt or salt-water, or any other type of corrosive agent, could affect the safety and/or performance of the PV modules. Sun2Earth Solar recommends that only stainless steel and aluminium metal directly contact PV modules in seaside installations to limit corrosion. Artificially concentrated light must not be directed on Sun2Earth Solar PV modules.

### Design Recommendations

Sun2Earth Solar recommends that PV modules be mounted at a minimum tilt angle of 10 degrees to allow for proper self-cleaning from normal rain showers.

Partial or complete shading of a PV module or modules can significantly reduce system performance Sun2Earth Solar recommends minimizing the amount of shade throughout the year to increase the amount of energy produced by the PV modules. Lightning protection is recommended for PV systems that are to be installed in locations with high probability of lightning strikes.

High system voltages could be induced in the event of an indirect lightning strike, which could

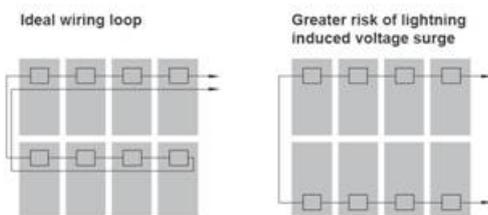


Figure 4: Wire loop design recommendation

cause damage to PV system components. The open area of wire loops should be minimized, as shown in Figure 4, in order to reduce the risk of lightning induced voltage surges.

## ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

### Electrical Configuration

Under normal conditions, a photovoltaic module is likely to experience conditions that produce more current and/or voltage than reported at Standard Test Conditions (STC: 1000 W/m<sup>2</sup>, AM 1.5, and 25°C cell temperature). The short-circuit current ( $I_{sc}$ ) should be multiplied by a factor of 1.25 and the open-circuit voltage ( $V_{oc}$ ) should be multiplied by a factor of up to 1.25 based on the lowest ambient temperature recorded for the installation location when determining component voltage ratings, conductor current ratings, fuse sizes, and size of controls connected to the PV output.

Volages are additive when PV modules are connected directly in series, and module currents are additive when PV modules are connected directly in parallel, as illustrated in Figure 5. PV modules with different electrical characteristics must not be connected directly in series. The use of suitable third-party electronic devices connected to PV modules may enable different electrical connections and must be installed according to the manufacturer's specified instructions.



Figure 5: Electrical diagrams of series and parallel wiring

The maximum number of PV modules that can be connected in a series string must be calculated in accordance with applicable regulations in such a way that the specified maximum system voltage of the PV module and all other electrical DC components will not be exceeded in open-circuit operation at the lowest temperature expected at the PV system location.

An appropriately rated over-current protection device must be used when the reverse current could exceed the value of the maximum fuse rating of the module. An over-current protection device is required for each series string if more than two series strings are connected in parallel.

### Cables and Wiring

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules are provided with two (2) stranded, sunlight resistant output cables that are terminated with PV connectors ready for most installations. The positive (+) terminal has a male connector while the negative (-) terminal has a female connector. The module wiring is intended for series connections [i.e. male (+) to female (-) interconnections], but can also be used to connect suitable third-party electrical devices that may have alternative wiring configurations so long as the manufacturer's instructions are followed.

Use field wiring with suitable cross-sectional areas that are approved for use at the maximum short-circuit current of the PV module. Sun2Earth Solar recommends installers use only sunlight resistant cables qualified for direct current (DC) wiring in PV systems. The minimum wire size should be 4mm<sup>2</sup>.

	Wire Size	Temperature Rating
Required Minimum Field Wiring	4mm <sup>2</sup>	-40°C to +90°C

Table 1: Required minimum field wiring specifications

Cables should be fixed to the mounting structure in such a way that mechanical damage of the cable and/or the module is avoided. Do not apply stress to the cables. For fixing, use appropriate means, such as sunlight resistant cable ties and/or wire management clips specifically designed to attach to the PV module frame. While the cables are sunlight resistant and waterproof, where possible, avoid direct sunlight exposure and water immersion of the cables.

### Connectors



Keep connectors dry and clean, and ensure that connector caps are hand tight before connecting the modules. Do not attempt making an electrical connection with wet, soiled, or otherwise faulty connectors. Avoid sunlight exposure and water immersion of the connectors. Avoid connectors resting on the ground or roof surface. Faulty connections can result in arcs and electrical shock. Check that all electrical connections are securely fastened. Make sure that all locking connectors are fully engaged and locked.

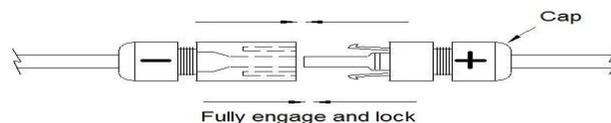


Figure 6: Series interconnection of a female (-) and male (+) connector

### Bypass Diodes

The junction boxes used with Sun2Earth Solar PV modules contain bypass diodes wired in parallel with the PV cell strings. In the case of partial shading, the diodes bypass the current generated by the non-shaded cells, thereby limiting module heating and performance losses. Bypass diodes are not over-current protection devices.

Bypass diodes divert current from the cell strings in the event of partial shading. See Figure 7 for a diagram showing how the cell strings are electrically connected with the diodes.

In the event of a known or suspected diode failure, installers or maintenance providers should contact the company the PV modules were purchased from. Never attempt to open the junction box of a Sun2Earth Solar PV module

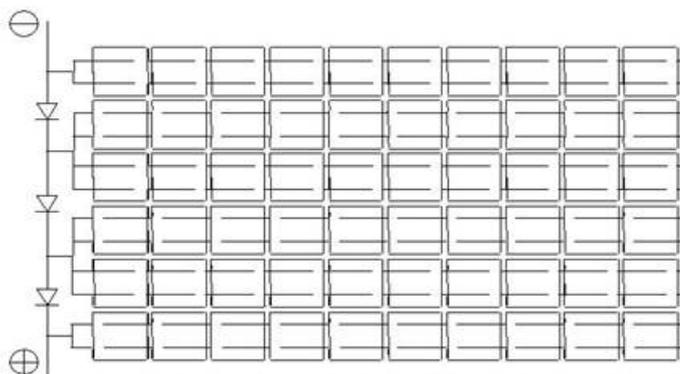


Figure 7: Electrical circuitry of cells and bypass diodes

yourself.

## Equipment Grounding

The frame of the PV module, as well as any exposed non-current-carrying metal parts of fixed equipment that are able to become energized by the PV system must be connected to the equipment grounding conductor (EGC) in order to prevent electrical shock. Even when applicable regulations, code requirements, and standards do not require safety-related grounding, Sun2Earth Solar recommends grounding all PV module frames in order to ensure the voltage between electrically conductive equipment and earth ground is zero in all circumstances.

Proper equipment grounding is achieved by bonding all exposed non-current-carrying metal equipment continuously to one another using an appropriately sized EGC or racking system that can be used for integrated grounding (see Option B in Grounding Methods below).

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules employ a coated aluminium frame for corrosion resistance. In order to properly ground the module frame, the coating must be penetrated.

The potential for corrosion due to the electrochemical action between dissimilar metals in contact is minimized if the electrochemical voltage potential between the dissimilar metals is low. The grounding method must not result in the direct contact of dissimilar metals with the aluminium frame of the PV module that will result in galvanic corrosion.

The frame rails have pre-drilled holes marked with a grounding sign, as illustrated in Figure 8. These holes should be used for grounding purposes and must not be used for mounting the PV modules. Do not drill additional holes into the frame rails.

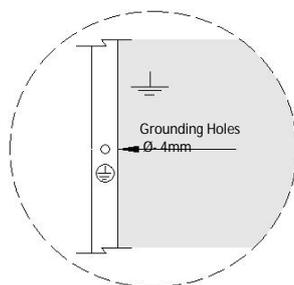


Figure 8: Grounding hole detail

The following grounding methods are available:

### Option A: Screw Assembly (see Figure 9)

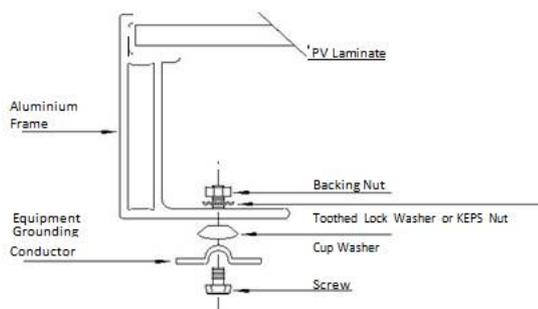


Figure 9: Grounding screw assembly detail

steel.

4. Tighten the screw to 2.3 N-m torque. The toothed lock washer should be visibly engaged to the frame.

5. Route the appropriately sized EGC in such a way as to avoid contact with the aluminium module frame.

### Option B: Racking Manufacturer Integrated Grounding Methods

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules can be grounded by bonding PV modules to a grounded racking system. Integrated grounding methods must be certified for grounding PV modules and must be installed in accordance with the specified instructions of their respective manufacturers.

### Option C: Additional Third-party Grounding Devices

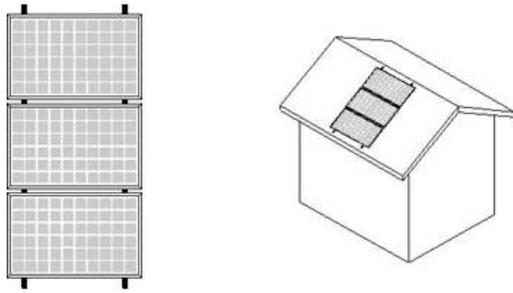
Sun2Earth Solar PV modules can be grounded using third party grounding devices so long as they are certified for grounding PV modules and the devices are installed according to the manufacturer's specified instructions.

## MECHANICAL INSTALLATION

### General

Sun2Earth Solar PV Modules have been certified for a maximum static load on the back of the module of up to 2400 Pa (i.e. wind load) and a maximum static load on the front of the module of up to either 2400 Pa or 5400 Pa (i.e. wind and snow load), depending on the module type (please refer to the data sheet for this information).

Landscape Orientation



Portrait Orientation

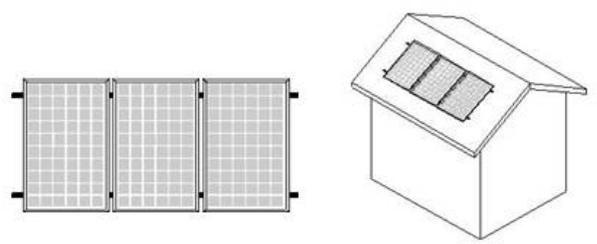


Figure 10: Landscape and portrait mounting

Mounting structures and other mechanical parts must be designed and approved to withstand the design wind and snow loads applicable for a particular site. Sun2Earth Solar PV modules must not be subjected to forces from the substructure, including forces caused by thermal expansion.

The mounting method must not result in the direct contact of dissimilar metals with the aluminium frame of the PV module that will result in galvanic corrosion.

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules can be mounted in landscape or portrait orientation, as illustrated in Figure 10, provided that the mounting method follows one of the acceptable methods listed below.

In order to maintain the fire class rating, the distance between the PV module front surface (glass) and the roof surface shall be at least 10 cm. This spacing also allows air flow to cool the PV module. Install PV modules with a minimum spacing of 1 cm between neighbouring frames to allow for thermal expansion.

## Mounting Methods

The following mounting methods are available:

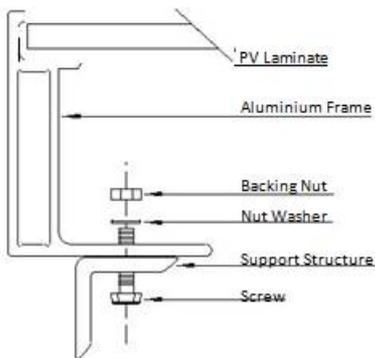


Figure 11: Detail of a bolt mounting attachment

### Bolts or Clamps

Refer to the Module Supplement distributed with this manual to determine how many connection points are required for a specific module series. The locations of mounting holes and clamp tolerances are illustrated in the drawings located in the Module Supplement. Do not modify the existing mounting holes or drill new holes. Do not apply excessive pressure on the frame such that the frame deforms.

- **Bolts:** Modules must be mounted using

the mounting holes located on the rear side of the long frame parts using M6 stainless steel bolts, nuts, and washers. Refer to the racking manufacturer for specific torque requirements.

- **Top-down Clamps:** Third-party clamps that have been designed for PV mounting structures are an approved mounting attachment method for Sun2Earth Solar PV modules. Modules must be fastened using clamps applied to the top side of the long frame parts. A clamp holds two modules except for the clamps at the beginning and end of a module row. The centreline of the clamps must be in line with the mounting hole positions plus or minus a distance of 50mm. Clamps must be installed according to the manufacturer's specified instructions.

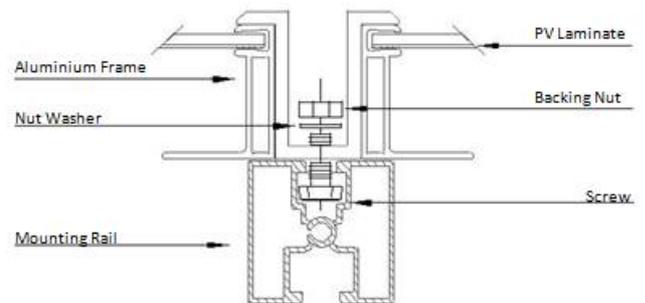


Figure 12: Detail of a top-down clamp mounting attachment

## MAINTENANCE

### General

Sun2Earth Solar recommends that PV systems be periodically inspected by the installer, or other qualified person.

The purpose of the PV system inspection is to ensure that all system components are functioning properly. At a minimum, this inspection should confirm the following:

- All cables and connector attachments are undamaged and properly secured
- No sharp objects are in contact with the PV module surfaces
- PV modules are not shaded by unwanted obstacles and/or foreign material
- Mounting and grounding components are tightly secured with no corrosion Defects should be addressed immediately

## Cleaning

Over time, dirt and dust can accumulate on the glass surface of the module, reducing its power output. Sun2Earth Solar recommends periodic cleaning of PV modules to ensure maximum power output, especially in regions with low precipitation.

In order to reduce the potential for electrical and thermal shock, Sun2Earth Solar recommends cleaning PV modules during early morning or late afternoon hours when solar radiation is low and the modules are cooler, especially in regions with hotter temperatures.

Never attempt to clean a PV module with broken glass or other signs of exposed wiring, as this presents a shock hazard.

Clean the glass surface of the PV modules with a soft brush using soft, clean water with a recommended pressure less than 690kPa, which is typical of most municipal water systems. Water with high mineral content may leave deposits on the glass surface and is not recommended.

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules may contain a hydrophobic anti-reflective coating on the glass surface to enhance power output and reduce dirt and dust build-up. In order to avoid module damage, do not clean PV modules with a power washer or pressure washer. Do not use steam or corrosive chemicals to facilitate the cleaning of modules. Do not use aggressive tools or abrasive materials that could scratch or damage the glass surface. Failure to comply with these requirements may adversely affect the PV module performance.

Sun2Earth Solar PV modules are designed to withstand high snow loads. However, if removing snow is desired to enhance production, use a brush to gently remove snow. Do not try to remove frozen snow or ice from PV modules.

## DECOMMISSIONING

The dismantling of PV systems must be performed with the same care and safety precautions used during the initial installation. The PV system can generate hazardous voltage even after the system has been disconnected. Follow safety regulations for working with live electrical equipment.

# SUN2EARTH SOLAR

SHED NO-1, PART 1, BHAIWALA IND. EST.

B/S SARDAR SMURTI BHAVAN, NEAR MINI HIRA BAZAR, A.K. ROAD VARACHHA. SURAT-395008

[info@sun2earth.co.in](mailto:info@sun2earth.co.in)

[sun2earth.solar@gmail.com](mailto:sun2earth.solar@gmail.com)

[www.sun2earth.co.in](http://www.sun2earth.co.in)

[Tel:- +91261-2543437](tel:+91261-2543437) / 2566299