



The Certification Mark for Onsite  
Sustainable Energy Technologies

## Microgeneration Certification Scheme: MCS 017

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Product Certification Scheme Requirements:  
Bespoke Building Integrated Photovoltaic Products

Issue 1.0

This standard has been approved by the Steering Group of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme.

This standard was prepared by the Microgeneration Certification Scheme Working Group 2 'Solar Photovoltaics'.

### **REVISION OF MICROGENERATION INSTALLATION STANDARDS**

Microgeneration Installation Standards will be revised by issue of revised editions or amendments. Details will be posted on the website at [www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org)

Technical or other changes which affect the requirements for the approval or certification of the product or service will result in a new issue. Minor or administrative changes (e.g. corrections of spelling and typographical errors, changes to address and copyright details, the addition of notes for clarification etc.) may be made as amendments.

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Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 2 of 15

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	SCOPE.....	4
2.	APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE SCHEME .....	4
3.	MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION .....	4
4.	CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL.....	5
	4.1 BBIPV product family.....	5
	4.2 BBIPV test sample.....	6
	4.3 BBIPV test requirements .....	6
	4.4 Deflection test.....	7
	4.5 Generic standards .....	7
	4.6 Design and product control requirements .....	8
	4.7 Quality and production control .....	9
	4.8 Product marking and Data .....	10
5.	TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION .....	11
6.	MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION AND LISTING .....	12
	6.1 Factory audits.....	12
	6.2 Product audits .....	12
7.	CERTIFICATION MARK AND LABELLING .....	13
	REVISION OF MICROGENERATION CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS .....	14
	AMENDMENTS ISSUES SINCE PUBLICATION .....	15

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 3 of 15

## 1. SCOPE

This document describes the measures required for a bespoke building integrated photovoltaic (BBIPV) product to be certified under the MCS scheme.

For the purposes of this document, a BBIPV product is defined as being a PV unit that is manufactured in varying sizes and configurations for the purpose of being built into the fabric of a building - such as PV glazing, PV façade units or PV shading units. Furthermore, a BBIPV product is one that is tailored and manufactured to a specific project, with a size, shape and configuration particular to that project.

Due to the wide variability in BBIPV products, the “standard module” approach for certification of products is not practicable.

This document addresses certification of such products by:

- a) Defining how a BBIPV manufacturer can declare a BBIPV product family
- b) Stating the sample size and configuration that is required for testing
- c) Stating the relevant IEC tests that need to be performed on the sample
- d) Defining the processes and procedures that the manufacturer must have in place in order to control the manufacture of BBIPV products within the family
- e) Defining the processes and procedures that the manufacturer must have in place in order to ensure that the BBIPV product is suitable for the intended application

## 2. APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE SCHEME

Applications should be made to an accredited certification body operating this scheme, who will provide the appropriate application form and details of the applicable fees.

## 3. MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION

Manufacturers shall operate a certified documented manufacturing quality control system, in accordance with the requirements of MCS 010 “Generic Factory Production Control Requirements”

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 4 of 15

## 4. CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

### 4.1 BBIPV product family

For the purposes of MCS certification, a BBIPV product family is taken to be a related series of products where, other than the physical dimensions and the number of cells utilised, the variations between the products is only as permitted within this document.

#### 4.1.1 Parameters that must be declared and remain the same across the product family

Within a product family, none of the following are permitted to vary

- PV cell manufacturer and model
- Cell interconnect material
- Module bus bar material
- Solder technique and material
- Front face material, except as indicated below
- Encapsulant (the material used to encase the PV cells within a laminate)
- Rear face material, except as indicated below
- Junction box
- Bypass Diode
- Output cable
- Connector

Note: Where a manufacturer wishes to use a different cell (or any other component), this is to be discussed with the certification body to agree the extent, if any, of any re-testing required.

#### 4.1.2 Parameters that are allowed to vary across the product family

- The number of cells may be varied - up to the limit declared by the manufacturer
- Where front or rear face of the product is glass, the glass thickness may be varied, subject to meeting the glazing and building standards detailed later in this document
- Where the front or rear face is glass, the glass type may be either heat strengthened or toughened glass, subject to meeting the glazing and building standards detailed later in this document
- The output cable length can be varied

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 5 of 15

- The connector can be omitted (panel supplied with bare cables)

Note: where the front or rear face is any material other than glass (eg tedlar), the specification of this material cannot be varied in any way, including its thickness.

#### 4.1.3 Parameters that the manufacturer must define for a product family

- The maximum number of series connected cells permitted to be connected in one string
- The minimum edge clearance (distance from cell edge to product edge) that is permitted
- The minimum inter cell spacing permitted
- Where glass is used for the front face – the minimum thickness permitted
- Where glass is used for the rear face – the minimum thickness permitted.
- The maximum deflection permitted for the product:  $L/x$  (where L is the BBIPV length and x is the value declared by the manufacturer for the product family).

#### 4.2 BBIPV test sample

The test samples for a BBIPV product family shall have the following characteristics

- The sample shall contain the maximum number of series connected cells as declared by the manufacturer - as described in section 4.3 of this document
- The sample shall have the cells located such that they are spaced from the edge of the sample at a distance equal to the minimum edge clearance as declared by the manufacturer - as described in section 4.3 of this document
- The sample shall have all cells spaced at the minimum cell spacing as declared by the manufacturer - as described in section 4.3 of this document
- Where the front face is glass, the sample shall utilise the thinnest glass as declared by the manufacturer - as described in section 4.3 of this document
- Where the rear face is glass, the sample shall utilise the thinnest glass as declared by the manufacturer - as described in section 4.3 of this document

#### 4.3 BBIPV test requirements

With the exception of product marking requirements, the BBIPV test sample shall be tested to and comply with:

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 6 of 15

#### 4.3.1 BBIPV products utilising crystalline silicon PV cells

- IEC61215 Crystalline Silicon terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval
- IEC61730 Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification

#### 4.3.2 BBIPV products utilising thin film PV technology

- IEC61646 Thin-film terrestrial photovoltaic (PV) modules – Design qualification and type approval
- IEC61730 Photovoltaic (PV) module safety qualification

#### 4.4 Deflection test

The load test undertaken as part of IEC61215 or IEC61646 must include a measurement of the deflection of the BBIPV sample. This load test must result in a deflection equal or greater than the value declared by the manufacturer for the product family. In some cases this may require applying a load greater than is required in the standard IEC61215 or IEC61646 tests.

*NOTE: All BBIPV products subsequently produced by the manufacturer will have to be designed such that the maximum unit deflection does not exceed the value declared for the BBIPV product family. This will be addressed by the manufacturer on a case by case basis, once the mounting method, unit size, orientation and dynamic loads are established for the project.*

#### 4.5 Generic standards

##### 4.5.1 Glazing requirements

The manufacturer of a BBIPV product shall ensure all products within a product family comply with the following glazing standards (as applicable):

- a) Glass to be in accordance with BS 952 and the relevant parts of:
- BS EN 572 for basic soda lime silicate glass – float (annealed).
  - BS EN 1096 for coated glass
  - BS EN 1863 for heat strengthened glass.
  - BS EN 12150 for toughened glass.
  - BS EN ISO 12543 for laminated glass

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 7 of 15

- BS EN 14179 for heat soaked toughened glass
  - BS EN1991-1 (Eurocode) for the calculation of dead & live loads
- b) Glazing shall be in accordance with BS 62662 and manufacturer's printed recommendations.
- c) Safety glass to be tested in accordance with BS EN 12600
- d) All safety glass to be suitable for applications as defined and recommended EN ISO 12543, Parts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, pr EN 12543 Part 2 and BS EN 1279 the Building Regulations, Local Authority requirements, other regulatory relevant Health and Safety requirements.
- e) All safety glass to be marked or suitably labelled in accordance with internationally recognised standards, strictly in accordance with BS 62662 and BS EN 12600.
- f) Marks, safety logos or similar to be universally and uniformly located at a consistent corner, and indicated on the drawings.

#### 4.5.2 Building standards

Manufacturers must be able to demonstrate that they have a process in place such that all products are designed and constructed to meet the requirements within the relevant national Building Regulations or Standards applicable for the application that the product is intended.

In particular, all products must be designed and constructed with a consideration to the imposed static and live loads. This will require a consideration of the BBIPV product construction, the mounting method and arrangement and the loads imposed (wind, snow etc). Maximum deflection criteria will need to be studied as part of this analysis.

### 4.6 Design and product control requirements

#### 4.6.1 Design control

The manufacturer shall be able to demonstrate to the MCS certification authority that they have procedures and processes in place to ensure:

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 8 of 15

- a) That all products manufactured within the BBIPV product family are designed to meet the generic standards and requirements outlined in section 7 of this document.
- b) That the products are designed such that they do not vary beyond the limited variations declared for that particular product family and remain within the permissible variations described earlier in this document
- c) That for products with multiple strings all internal components and external components (bus bars, header bars, junction box, etc) are designed to meet the voltage and current characteristics of the product.

This shall include an ability to demonstrate that factors including (but not limited to) the intended mounting system, imposed loadings and permissible deflection for the product family have been met in addressing the BBIPV construction. This is of particular relevance when considering the glass thickness / composition for a particular project.

#### 4.7 Quality and production control

The manufacturer shall demonstrate:

- a) That all products manufactured within the BBIPV product family are manufactured to meet the generic standards and requirements outlined in this document.
- b) That the products are manufactured such that they do not vary beyond the limited variations declared for that particular product family and remain within the permissible variations described earlier in this document.
- c) Where the product family permits variations in glass thickness, the manufacturer shall have demonstrable systems to ensure that the lamination process is correctly adjusted to suit the changes.

*Note: it expected that the method used by the manufacturer to demonstrate correct lamination will be covered by the controls they adopt in order to meet the requirements of BS EN ISO 12543*

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 9 of 15

## 4.8 Product marking and Data

Each product shall be marked with the manufacturers name and a unique serial number. The marking shall be durable and remain legible over the design life of the product.

Each product shall have the polarity of all connections clearly marked. This can be achieved by cable colour coding or a suitable and durable mark on the cable connector or junction box.

A datasheet shall be provided for each module including the following details as a minimum:

- a. Open circuit voltage ( $V_{OC}$ ) under standard test conditions (stc)
- b. Short circuit current ( $I_{SC}$ ) stc
- c. Voltage at Maximum Power ( $V_{MPP}$ ) stc
- d. Current at Maximum Power ( $I_{MPP}$ ) stc
- e. Maximum System Voltage (V) rating stc
- f. Voltage temperature coefficient  $\%/^{\circ}C$  and  $mV/^{\circ}C$
- g. Maximum Power ( $W_P$ )
- h. Maximum Reverse Current ( $I_R$ )
- i. Recommended Fuse Rating

Note: Where thin film or amorphous type technology is used then both pre annealed and post annealed data shall be provided.

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 10 of 15

## 5. TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

Technical documentation for the product must be submitted for review by the Certification Body and provided to the customer where noted. This documentation shall be presented in English and shall be such that it can be assured that the products submitted for test are equivalent to those that are to be manufactured for normal production. The documentation must consist of the following as a minimum;

Factory data for the Certification Body:

- a) Details of intended use, application and classifications (if any) required
- b) Manufacturing drawings and/or specifications including tolerances, issue and revision numbers
- c) The revision number of the product.
- d) Raw material and components specifications
- e) Details of the quality plan applied during manufacture to ensure ongoing compliance
- f) Where historical test data is requested to be considered for the application, full test report and details of any existing approvals (Note: each application will be dealt with on a case by case basis and further information about the acceptance of previous testing is available on request)
- g) Installation, use and maintenance instructions
- h) Sample product data sheet

Data for the Customer:

- a) Details of intended use, application and classifications (if any) required
- b) Fabrication drawings and/or specifications including tolerances, issue and revision numbers
- c) Installation, use and maintenance instructions
- d) Product data sheet

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 11 of 15

## 6. MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION AND LISTING

Certificates and listing are maintained and held in force subject to satisfactory completion of the following requirements for maintenance of certification:

### 6.1 Factory audits

Certification is maintained through annual FPC quality system audits, which shall include a detailed check that the product being manufactured is to the same specification as the product tested.

### 6.2 Product audits

Product audits will be conducted as follows:

- review of the product technical data files including materials
- review of end of line tests in accordance with the manufacturer's quality plan
- repeat testing of elements from the product standard as appropriate to confirm that the product continues to meet the requirements for certification and listing.

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 12 of 15

## 7. CERTIFICATION MARK AND LABELLING

All approved products listed under this scheme shall be traceable to identify that they have (marked with a label to confirm that the product has) been tested and certificated in accordance with the requirements of the test standard. See below for details.

The Supplier shall use (the) Certification Mark(s) (only) in accordance with the Certification Bodies' instructions.

An example of the certification mark that can be used for this scheme is as follows:



Certificate Number MCS "XXX"

*"Description of the Technology certificated"*

Where 'XXX' is the certificate number and the logo of the certification body issuing the certification would sit in the right hand box.

Companies may only use the mark while the certification is maintained.

Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 13 of 15

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Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 14 of 15

## AMENDMENTS ISSUES SINCE PUBLICATION

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Issue: 1.0	PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME REQUIREMENTS: BBIPV	MCS 017
Date: 01/08/2011		Page 15 of 15