

## Solar America Board for Codes and Standards



### SOLAR ABCS POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Standards for  
PV Modules and Systems

December 2012

## Solar ABCs Policy Recommendation Recommended Standards for PV Modules and Systems

Solar ABC Policy Recommendation (December 2012) addresses the use of qualification and reliability standards for PV modules, which includes the following Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) standards: UL 61215 Crystalline Silicon Terrestrial Photovoltaic (PV) Modules - Design Qualification and Type Approval, UL 61646 Thin-Film Terrestrial Photovoltaic (PV) Modules - Design Qualification and Type Approval, and UL 62108 Concentrator Photovoltaic (CPV) Modules and Assemblies - Design Qualification and Type Approval.

### Policy Recommendation Statement

“Meeting the requirements of qualification standards is considered to be a minimum requirement for any module procurement. Photovoltaic modules sold or installed in the U.S. shall be independently tested and certified to the following qualification standard: UL 61215 Crystalline Silicon Terrestrial Photovoltaic (PV) Modules - Design Qualification and Type Approval, UL 61646 Thin-Film Terrestrial Photovoltaic (PV) Modules - Design Qualification and Type Approval, and UL 62108 Concentrator Photovoltaic (CPV) Modules and Assemblies - Design Qualification and Type Approval.”

### Why the Policy Recommendation is Important

In the U.S. marketplace there is currently no testing required to substantiate claims of minimum durability, lifetime or reliability of modules in the field. Therefore, if any PV modules produced that do not pass internationally recognized qualification testing provides the incentive to direct those lower quality modules to the U.S. market. As a result, the U.S. marketplace may be flooded with lower quality modules.

This recommendation is important because it outlines a minimum standard that will eliminate poorer quality PV modules to be sold in the U.S. market which results in reduced PV performance and lifetime expectancy. Without the use of this recommended policy could have a negative impact on the U.S. PV market and overall increased levelized cost of electricity.

Solar ABCs intends to develop other recommended policies to address the current consumer and industry concerns related to the use of various performance, reliability/qualification and safety standards. Specifically, the use of standards for performance and safety will be addressed in future recommended policy statements.

### About Solar ABCs

The Solar America Board for Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs) is a collaborative effort among experts to formally gather and prioritize input from the broad spectrum of solar photovoltaic stakeholders including policy makers, manufacturers, installers, and consumers resulting in coordinated recommendations to codes and standards making bodies for existing and new solar technologies. The U.S. Department of Energy funds Solar ABCs as part of its commitment to facilitate wide-spread adoption of safe, reliable, and cost-effective solar technologies. For more information, visit [solarabcs.org](http://solarabcs.org).

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