



Building and Code Enforcement Code Interpretation

Bulletin: INT-15- 001
Date: June 25, 2015
By: Jim Zicaro, Director Building and Code
Subject: Article 270.79(C); Minimum size Main Disconnect

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Interpretation is to address the issue of 225 amp bus requirements for single family residences versus meter combinations of lesser amperage which incorporate a solar power center.

BACKGROUND

Palm Springs Municipal Code section 8.04.055 amended article 270.79 (C) of the California Electrical Code, thereby requiring that the minimum size main service disconnect for a single family residence be a 200 amp panel with a 225 amp bus.

This standard was established with input from members of the local solar industry to establish a minimum size main disconnect that would accommodate typical loads and the addition of future photovoltaic solar systems.

Combination main service panels which incorporate isolated disconnect means are available and the industry has requested that these type mains be considered as meeting the intent of the code and approved for use in the City of Palm Springs.

CONSIDERATIONS

The solar industry is ever changing and new products are coming on line at a fast pace. There are currently meter combination panels which incorporate an isolated solar photovoltaic disconnect. Some of these products have bus bars which do not meet the minimum bus bar standard set forth in article 270.79 (C), however the solar disconnect is isolated from the main bus bar and the system is capable of supplying more than that of a standard 200 amp panel with a 225 amp bus.



INTERPRETATION / FINDINGS

The intent of article 270.79(C) as amended by the City of Palm Springs is to provide a minimum standard for main service disconnects on single family residences while providing for future solar photovoltaic systems.

Providing a combination main service with a 200 amp bus bar and an isolated photovoltaic breaker which does not connect to the main bus bar is considered to be in compliance with the general intent of article 270.79(C).