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## Solar PV Installer

### PV Installer Certification

The NABCEP PV installer certification is a voluntary certification that provides a set of national standards by which PV installers with skills and experience can distinguish themselves from their competition. Certification provides a measure of protection to the public by giving them a credential for judging the competency of practitioners. It is not intended to prevent qualified individuals from installing PV systems or to replace state licensure requirements.

The target candidate for NABCEP certification is the person responsible for the system installation including contractor, lead installer, foreman, supervisor, or journeyman.

The NABCEP PV Installer certification has been developed in accordance with the best practices of the certification field. NABCEP is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (I.C.E.) and has endeavored to follow the

requirements of [ISO/IEC Standard 17024](#): General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification Systems of Persons.



**NABCEP Solar PV Installer Certification is North America's only renewable energy personnel certification that has been ANSI accredited to the internationally recognized ISO/IEC 17024 standard.**

## Requirements

All candidates for the Solar PV Installer Certification must have experience in the field acting as the person responsible for installing PV systems, a minimum of 58 hours of advanced PV training and an OSHA 10 hour construction industry card or equivalent.

All candidates must pay for and complete an application by the exam [deadline](#). Specific requirements for each candidate vary by category according to your experience and background. It is important to review the [Candidate Handbook](#) for this exam thoroughly in order to choose a category under which you will apply. In order to qualify for this exam you must meet all of the requirements for your chosen category.

All Solar PV Installer candidates must meet all training and installation requirements that are outlined in section three (3) of the [Candidate Information Handbook for Installer Exams](#).

## Training

In order to qualify for the Solar PV Installer Exam, a candidate must successfully complete a minimum of 58 hours of advanced PV training before the application deadline. A minimum of forty(40) of the fifty eight (58) prescribed hours must cover advanced solar PV installation and design principles and practices addressed in the NABCEP PV Installer Job Task Analysis. All advanced PV training must be offered by one of the following education providers:

1. Institutions accredited by an agency recognized by the federal Department of Education, or Canadian equivalent (Universities, Community Colleges, etc.)
2. U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Training Programs (<http://www.doleta.gov/oa/>)
3. Training Programs accredited, Independent Instructors, or Independent Master Trainers certified by the [Interstate Renewable Energy Council](#) (IREC) to IREC or IREC ISPQ Standards.
4. Training institutions approved by State Contractor Licensing Boards or Canadian Provincial equivalents
5. State or Provincial Department of Education or equivalent registered Vocational / Technical training programs

NOTE: Courses offered by private training organizations or businesses that are not accredited or taught by instructors certified by a recognized third-party will not be accepted for the minimum of 40 hours of advanced solar PV installation and design training.

A maximum of eighteen (18) of the fifty-eight (58) prescribed hours may be obtained from non-accredited, non-certified sources such as:

1. Courses covering building and electrical codes relevant to the installation of solar PV systems
2. Entry Level coursework through a NABCEP Registered PV Entry Level Exam Provider, provided that a passing score achievement was obtained on the NABCEP PV Entry Level Exam. NOTE: Courses leading to the NABCEP Entry Level Exam do not qualify for the minimum 40 hours of advanced PV installation and design.
3. Additional OSHA or equivalent workplace safety courses above and beyond the required OSHA 10 hour course
4. Training programs and courses that are registered with NABCEP for Continuing Education Credits for the PV Installer Certification
5. Any other coursework that addresses topics included in the NABCEP PV Installer Job Task Analysis (NOTE: the applicant will need to submit a course outline and signed letter from the training provider detailing how many hours were spent covering the NABCEP Solar PV Installer Job Task Analysis in the course.)

Completing a minimum of 10 Hours of OSHA Construction Industry training is also required.

[Click Here to Find an OSHA 10 Hour In-Person or Online Class Near You.](#)

## Installations

IBEW Exhibit 6.0

Depending on the qualify category selected, all candidates for the Solar PV Installer exam must provide documentation for three (3) or five (5) installations where they have acted in the role of contractor, lead installer, foreman, supervisor, or journeyman. Candidates must provide system information, permits and inspections for each project that he/she has installed. Additionally, if the name listed on the permit or inspection does not match that of the candidate, a letter to verify the role of the candidate is required. Please read sections 3.4 and 3.7 of the [Candidate Handbook](#) for more details.

If you are ready to start an application, [please click here](#).

## PV Task Analysis

The foundation document for all of the NABCEP Certification Exams is a detailed description of the job and subject matter involved. This is referred to as a “Task Analysis” or “Job Task Analysis (JTA).”

The [NABCEP PV installer JTA](#) defines a set of knowledge, skills and abilities typically required of solar PV installation professional. As of October 4, 2011, NABCEP has revised the Solar PV Installer Job Task Analysis. The Solar PV Job Task Analysis (JTA) contains a detailed listing of the skills and abilities that an installer of PV systems should have. The JTA guides the development of an exam by which candidates for certification can demonstrate that they possess the skills and knowledge that their peers and experts have deemed necessary to do the job well. It is the core document of the NABCEP Solar PV Installer Certification.

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## Small Wind Installer Certification

The Small Wind Installer Certification Program has been suspended. If you are currently Certified as a NABCEP Small Wind Certified Installer, you can find information about re-certification in the [Candidate Information Handbook](#). You may also want to visit the [re-certification](#) section of this website.

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## Entry Level

The NABCEP Entry Level Program is designed for those individuals wanting to get into the solar field; achievement of the NABCEP Entry Level Exam is a way for candidates to demonstrate that they have achieved a basic knowledge of the fundamental principles of the application, design, installation and operation of PV and Solar Heating systems.

Upon successful completion of coursework offered by a registered NABCEP Entry Level Exam Provider, a student is eligible to sit for one of the Entry Level Exams. Prior to taking the NABCEP PV or Solar Heating Entry Level Exam, students should have demonstrated a basic understanding of the principles outlined in the Learning Objectives.

The knowledge demonstrated by passing this test does not replace the knowledge, skills or abilities of the electrical or other construction trades, or those of other professions or degree programs that require considerably more academic and/or practical experience.

Individuals passing the NABCEP Entry Level Exams should not be confused with NABCEP Certified PV Installers or NABCEP Certified Solar Heating Installers. The latter can only be achieved by highly experienced individuals who have passed a much more rigorous examination and have demonstrated the capability to supervise complete system installations, and who have a detailed working knowledge of the electrical and plumbing codes, standards and accepted industry practice associated with PV and Solar Heating installations.

As the market grows for both PV and Solar Heating, students achieving this industry-sponsored Entry Level Exam may find that their employment opportunities are enhanced by starting the job with an understanding of the basic terms and operational aspects of a PV or Solar Heating system. However, completing coursework and passing the exam does not qualify an individual to install these systems.

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