

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

June 1, 2011

MEMORANDUM

FROM: NC STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

TO: ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS AND SOLAR
INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

RE: STATE LAW – LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLAR
PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRICAL ENERGY SYSTEMS

The Board has received a number of inquiries as to the application of State Electrical Contracting Licensing Law to the installation of solar photovoltaic electrical energy systems. The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide information.

NCGS 87-43 requires that a license as an electrical contractor be obtained by any person "... engaging or offering to engage in the business of installing, maintaining, altering or repairing any electric work wiring devices, appliances or equipment." The performance of some electrical work under special circumstances may be exempted under NCGS 87-43.1. None of those exemptions appear to apply to solar photovoltaic electrical energy systems. Thus, a licensed electrical contractor must install as well as contract to install such systems. This means that only the electrical contractor may have a contract with a property owner for this work.

License classifications that may engage or offer to engage in the described electrical work are Limited, Intermediate or Unlimited. Additionally, the SP-SFD (Special Restricted Single Family Dwelling) license classification is permitted to perform this work for single family residential dwellings.

The licensing law and Board rules can be found on the Board website www.ncbeec.org . Click on Laws & Rules.

Solar photovoltaic electrical energy systems are governed by Article 690 of the 2008 National Electrical Code.

Please contact your local Field Representative or Board office if you have any questions or if we can assist you in any way.

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