FREQUENT QUESTIONS-ANSWERS ON PV SYSTEMS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PVs WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR BUILDINGS

1. *Where does the Special Program apply to?*

The Special Program refers to the whole territory. The maximum capacity per installation is defined to 10kWp for the mainland, the Interconnected islands with the mainland system, as well as for Crete and to 5 kWp for the rest of the Non-Interconnected Islands.

2. *Where the PV system can be installed? (*)*

According to the joint ministerial decision Greek Government Gazette/1079/B/04.06.2009 and the Greek Government Gazette 1557/B/22.09.2010, the possibility is provided so as to install Photovoltaic systems on buildings which are used as **residence or very small businesses** mainly on **roof-top structures** and **roofs** of legally existed buildings, as defined in paragraph 1 of article 23 of L. 4067/2012 (New Building Regulation – NOK), on shelters, facades and auxiliary areas (warehouses, parking spaces etc.) as defined in article 2 of NOK, as well as on sunshades as defined in paragraph 6 of article 11 of L. 1577/1985, as well as in NOK. The above PV systems installation is allowed provided that it is not against the regulations of NOK and the specialized building terms applied in the area.

The installation of the above mentioned systems is also allowed in buildings in which illegal constructions are made or illegal changes of use are realized according to cases d, e and g of paragraph 2 in article 23 of L.4014/2011 (A' 209), as it is in force, for the time period of their maintenance and the relevant procedure is implemented".

It is obvious that the auxiliary areas must be located within the same field with the main building, otherwise they cannot be characterized as such.

It is clarified that any area or combination of areas mentioned above can be selected for the installation of the PV system. In any case, the **ground** installation of a PV system is **not** allowed within the framework of the Special Program (e.g. in a vacant area of a field).

3. *Who can install a PV system? (*)*

Integration into the PV systems program can be requested by Natural persons non self-employed, natural or legal persons self-employed who run very small businesses, Public Legal Entities (ΝΠΔΔ) as well as non-profit Private Legal Entities (ΝΠΙΔ) who have full ownership or usufruct or bare ownership under the necessary condition that they have the usufructuary's consent for the area in which the PV system will be installed and that they use the building as residence or for their activities.

The right to install a PV system in a building which belongs to a Public Legal Entity (ΝΠΔΔ), the use of which is undertaken by a building manager (eg school committee), is granted to the manager after the building owner's consent.

In cases of PV system installation on a public or common area, **only one** PV system is allowed to be installed. In this case, the right for integration into the Program is provided only to the owners of the horizontal properties represented by the manager or one of the owners of the horizontal properties after concession for use of the public or common area by the rest of the co-owners.

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Prerequisite is the consent of all building co-owners with the responsibility of the interested parties.

4. Which are the main conditions for the PV system installation?

Necessary condition is the existence of an active power supply in the building of installation under the name of the PV system owner (natural/legal person). Additionally, when the building on which the PV system is installed is used as a residence, then as prerequisite is considered the fact that part of the thermic needs in hot water will be covered by the use of renewable energy sources (such as solar water heaters, solar thermal systems) according to the Joint Ministerial Decision.
Also, the **PV system installation** project should not be integrated into another funding program (e.g. NSRF Operational Program).

5. Where the application form for the connection can be submitted and which documents are attached?

The **application form for the connection** must be submitted to the local PPC unit (Region) http://www.deddie.gr . The documents and elements that should be attached are mentioned in the points no 1 to 9 of the application form. Prerequisite is that the interested party should have already chosen the type of equipment to be installed and the relevant technical study should have been implemented. The application form for the connection is received and takes a protocol number only if the application form elements as well as the attached documents are complete and correctly filled.

6. Which is the procedure that is followed?

PPC examines the request and within twenty (20) days from the receipt of the application form proceeds to a written **Connection Offer** to the interested party which includes the project description and expenses. It is in force for three (3) months from the issuance date.

7. When the Connection Agreement is signed for the PV systems?

The interested party submits to PPC Region an **application form for conclusion of the Connection Agreement**. In the application form, it should be mentioned that the Connection Offer is accepted and two (2) Sworn Statements of L. 1599/86 will be attached, one by the PV system owner and one by the installer engineer.
PPC Region invites the interested party to present himself at its premises for the payment of the PPC expenses of connection works and for the signature of the Connection Agreement.

8. How much does the PV system connection to the network cost?

The cost of connection works is up to **800 € plus VAT**, if the distance of the property on which the PV system is installed is relatively small from the PPC Unit (estimated time of go and return will be less than two hours) and the replacement of the supply cable is not required or **1000 € plus VAT**, in cases where the above distance is either longer or replacement of the supply cable is required.

The above costs constitute standard connection costs provided that new Network works are not required apart from the replacement of the supply cable.

9. How much time is it required for the connection works?

PPC constructs the connection works within twenty (20)days from the signature of the Connection Agreement provided that new Network works are not required.

10. When is the Netting Agreement signed for the PV system?

After the Connection Agreement signature, an **application form** is submitted **for the Netting Agreement signature** by the owner of the PV system to the Supplier with which the consumer has concluded a Supply Agreement. The procedure is implemented usually within 15 days from the date of the acceptance of request.

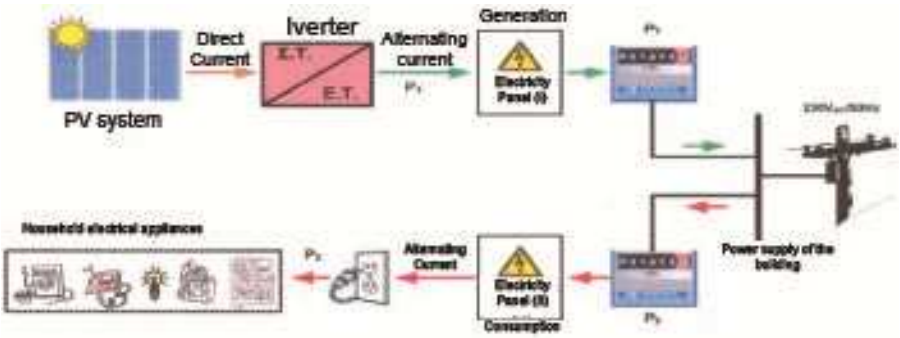
11. When the PV system connection is enabled?

The activation of the PV system connection is realized by the competent Region of the PPC Network after

- The delivery of the **Netting Agreement** copy by the Supplier or the beneficiary
- The submission of the competent **Engineer's Sworn Statement** along with the relevant attached documents and
- The submission of the **Sworn Statement by the PV system owner** mentioning that he engages himself that he will not proceed to any amendments in the PV system installation.

12. How the PV system is connected to the Network?

The PV system is connected with the Middle Voltage network by using the same supply with the building consumptions, according to the figure below:



With this way, the measurement of the PV system generating energy and the measurement of the energy consumed by the installation are correlated and basically, they constitute a unified total. For this reason, the connection corresponds to the existing supply number of the property of the PV owner.

The small capacity of the PV systems assures that the generated energy corresponds to the one required for the coverage of the energy needs of the system owner, considering him as self-producer and for this reason he is provided with the highest price and is exempted from income taxation concerning the sale of the PV system energy.

13. When the metering and the payment of the energy generated by the PV system are realized?

The **metering** of the energy generated by the PV system is realized simultaneously with the consumed energy metering, that is, the same cycle of metering is applied with the one realized for the consumed energy.

However, the payment of the generated energy is made in the Actual Bill (not in the Estimated Bill).

If, for any reason, the metering indications are not taken in the scheduled metering date, the netting will be made when the next regular metering will take place.

14. Which is the price of the energy generated by the PV system? (*)

The **price** of the energy generated by the PV system is defined by Υ.Α.Π.Ε./Φ1/2302/16934 (Greek Government Gazette 2317/B/10.08.2012) for the new netting agreements concluded from the publication of the above mentioned Greek Government Gazette and afterwards.

The price mentioned in the Netting Agreement is adjusted each year per 25% of the consumer price index of the previous year, as it is defined by the NSSG. If the price derived from the above adjustment is lower than the mean Limit Value of the System as formed during the previous year, increased by 40%, the pricing will be made based on the mean Limit Value of the System of the previous year, increased by the above relevant coefficient.

If the PV system connection activation will be made after the passage of **six months** from the conclusion of the Netting Agreement, then, the price that corresponds to the year in which the activation of the PV system connection takes place will be taken **as reference price** according to Greek Government Gazette 2317/10.08.2012.

15. How the accounting offset is made for the value of the energy generated by the PV system?

The **credit** from the energy generated by the PV system is displayed on the electricity bill of the PV system owner. Substantially, the electricity bill is considered as purchase invoice.

This amount of credit is offset with the obligations deriving from the Power Supply Agreement. In case which the total electricity bill is a credit bill then the **amount is credited to the bank account** of the PV system owner on the expiration date of the electricity bill.

16. Which is the duration of the PV system Netting Agreement?

The Netting Agreement signed between the Supplier and the owner of the PV system is applied for **duration of 25 years**, starting from the date of the PV system connection activation.

17. When does the Netting Agreement end?

The Netting Agreement ends

- As of right with the passage of a 25-year period.
- As of right if the Supplier is changed. In this case, a new Netting Agreement is signed for the rest of the 25-year period with the new Supplier.
- As of right, after the end of the Supply Agreement or the Connection Agreement.

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- Following the termination on behalf of the Supplier in case of insufficient fulfillment of the Netting Agreement terms by the PV system owner, after written notification so as the contracting party to comply with his obligations (restoration period) with a inactive passage of 15 days deadline.
- Following the termination on behalf of the PV system owner without specific reason, after the submission of the relevant document within 15 days following the document delivery.
- After the termination by the PV system owner in case of permanent interruption of the PV system operation.

18. Which is the procedure foreseen when the owner of the property on which the PV system is installed changes and a Netting Agreement has already been signed?

If the PV system owner changes due to transfer of ownership of the building on which the PV system is located, the new owner undertakes the rights and obligations deriving from the Netting Agreement, as of right, from the person who transfers the property.

19. Are the changes in the PV system equipment acceptable?

Changes are acceptable on the type or the manufacturer of frameworks and inverters after written notification to the competent PPC Region along with the equivalent technical manuals and certificates, until the submission of the application form for the connection activation **at the latest**, without the requirement to modify the Connection and Netting Agreement provided that with the new equipment, the total installed capacity (kWp) of the system is not differentiated **more than 3%** of the originally stated capacity.

20. Are application forms accepted for PV system capacity increase? (*)

Capacity increase of PV systems after the activation of the connection is not allowed. Application forms for **capacity increase of non-operating systems** with Connection Offer are considered as cancellation of the Offer and the issuance of a new Offer is required.

21. How many PV systems can be installed by the beneficiaries of the Special Program? (*)

The beneficiaries of the special program mentioned in question no 3 can be integrated into the program only **once**.

School installations are exempted on which more than one PV systems up to 10 kW can be installed.

It is clarified that natural person who owns a residence which is leased to third party is not entitled to install a PV system. That is, the person has to use the property himself. In case which the residence is leased after the activation of the PV system, a **succession** in the name of the lessee in the power supply cannot be realized without the termination of the Connection and Netting Agreements.

22. If someone is entitled of the right to build on the roof-top (air right), can he install a PV system?

No, this right constitutes a future right and its beneficiary is the owner of the horizontal ownership when the floor will be built. Until it is built, the future floor, the terrace can be commonly used even if he has its exclusive use.

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23. In case of usufruct + bare ownership on a property, who is entitled to install the PV system?(*)

The usufructuary can be integrated in the Special Program without the consent of the bare owner, since by law the usufructuary is entitled to profit from the revenue and to use the area where the PV system is installed; however, the bare owner can install the PV system provided that he has the usufructuary's consent for the area where the PV system is installed.

In any case, the existing power supply will have to be under the name of the applicant.

24. In case of joint ownership, who can install the PV system?

If there is a joint ownership by 50% ab indiviso in a property, then one of the co-owners can request to be integrated into the Special Program with the written consent of the other co-owner.

In case which there are more than one co-owners in a property (that is, there is joint ownership), then one of the co-owners can request to be integrated into the Special Program, however, he has to submit the written consent of the rest of the co-owners.

25. In order to install a PV system on a building which is built in a privately owned plot and consequently, there is no title of ownership for the building, which documents must be submitted so as to prove the ownership?

Copies of the plot ownership (copy of the notary deed and the certificate of its registration to the Land Registry) and the building permit which must be under the name of the owner and the applicant must be submitted to PPC.

26. If a minor child has the ownership or the usufruct of a property can he install a PV system?

The minor child cannot, but the persons who have the parental responsibility can, by submitting the Court order with which they are provided with a special permit to request, on behalf of their minor child, the PV systems installation on the property roof, provided that all the other conditions are fulfilled.

27. Can one of the co-owners who has the exclusive use of part of the terrace install a PV system on this part?

In a co-owned terrace to which the exclusive use is granted with a notarial deed to one or more owners of the horizontal properties, one PV system and only one can be installed following the consent of the co-owners.

28. Does the Special Program apply to buildings outside the city plan?

The Special Program refers to the PV systems installation on buildings that are located not only within the city plan but also outside the city plan, provided that the other conditions are fulfilled.

29. Is it possible a small business (limited partnership, unlimited partnership etc.) to install the PV system of the Special Program on a building where its activities are realized but the ownership belongs to the shareholders?

The building must belong to the company and not to its shareholders according to the conditions of the Special Program.

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30. Can the PV system be installed on arbors, tents or on mobile building structures? (*)

According to the terms of the Program, the PV systems are installed on stable and specific locations of buildings. The coverage of arbors, which are defined by Article 2 paragraph 60 of NOK, with any permanent or temporary material is not allowed. Specifically, "Arbor is defined as the external stable construction with no roof with maximum height of three meters destined for climbing plants or the installation of temporary sunshades made of fabric, reed and mobile elements excluding any other vertical elements for completing the existing construction.

31. Can the owner of an apartment in a block of apartments install a PV system on the shelter of its veranda?

In commonly owned or public areas of the block of apartments, the installation of one and only system is allowed. The PV system installation by the owner of an apartment on the shelter of its veranda can be accepted, if the shelter is not included in the commonly owned or public use areas and provided that its installation does not contradict with the block of apartments regulation.

32. Can the PV system be installed in auxiliary areas of residences such as warehouses, parking spaces, sheds etc.?(*)

Provided that the above areas constitute part or continuance of the residency and they exist legally, then the PV system can be installed on their roofs and will be connected with the active power supply of the residence.

33. Is it a prerequisite that the building auxiliary area such as warehouse or parking space should be supplied with electricity in order to install the PV system?

Provided that the warehouse or the parking space constitute auxiliary areas of the main building which is supplied with electricity (the number of its supply is related with the PV system), the PV system installation is irrelevant whether the area in question is supplied with electricity or not.

34. Can the PV system be installed on the roof of a rural warehouse?

The application framework of the Special Program includes buildings which are used as residence or premises of very small businesses. Consequently, PV systems installed on buildings or constructions used for other purposes cannot be integrated into the Program.

More specifically, rural warehouses on which business activity is taking place (for e.g. collection and process of agricultural products) and the farmer is subject for this activity to the regular status of VAT as a professional, then a PV system of the Special Program can be installed.

If he is subject to the special status of VAT for farmers, then the PV system cannot be integrated into the Special Program. It is pointed out that based on the Code of Books, the farmers who are integrated only into the regular VAT status are considered as professionals.

35. Can a PV system be installed on a building without a building permit?(*)

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The PV system installation on buildings is allowed on roof-top structure or roof of a **legally existed building** as defined in paragraph 1 of Article 23 of NOK on shelters, facades and auxiliary areas (warehouses, parking spaces etc.), as defined in article 2 of NOK, as well as on sunshades as defined in paragraph 6 of article 11 of L. 1577/1985, as well as in NOK. The above PV systems installation is allowed provided that it is not against the regulations of NOK and the specialized building terms applied in the area.
The installation of the above mentioned systems is also allowed in buildings in which illegal constructions are made or illegal changes of use are realized according to cases d, e and g of paragraph 2 in article 23 of L.4014/2011 (A' 209), as it is in force, for the time period of their maintenance and the relevant procedure is implemented".
Necessary requirement for the installation of the PV system in buildings or constructions without a building permit is the submission of the certificate mentioning that the building or construction is included in the above mentioned regulations of Law 4014/2011 issued by the Building Offices (ΔΟΚΚ 14364/3-4-2012).
It is pointed out that the connection of the building with public interest networks does not constitute in any case a criterion or proof of legitimacy.

36. Can a PV system be installed on an old building constructed prior to 1995 for which there is a building permit?(*)

According to regulations of article 23 of NOK, building or part of a building is considered as legally existed, if it exists before the royal decrees of 9.8.1955. The building or part of a building which is subject to the above regulation is certified with the **certificate issued by the local Building Office** for the issuance of which the submission of a certificate of age by the competent Municipality/Body is required.

37. In a residence with one-phase power supply, is it possible to install a PV system with capacity more than 5kW? Which changes will be made to the existing supply?

When there is an existing one-phase supply on a building, while for the connection of the PV system a three-phase supply is required (three-phase supply is required for capacity between 5 kW and 10kW), then, only the supply cable should be changed obligatorily (from one-phase to a three-phase).
The cost for the replacement of the existing one-phase supply cable and the installation cost of a branch box are included in the standard connection cost.
So, apart from the supply cable, the capacity increase of the existing consumption supply <u>is not required</u>.

38. Is it possible for a small business to install more than one PV systems?(*)

No. The beneficiaries are allowed to be integrated into the Special Program **<u>once</u>**.
It is clarified that the area where the PV system is installed must be used for the activities of the very small business.
"Very small business" is defined as the business which has less than 10 employees and its turnover or the total of its annual balance sheet does not exceed the 2 million Euros.

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39. Can a natural person or a very small business install the PV system on a property under his/its ownership which does not use?(*)

Natural/legal persons who do not live/are not accommodated in the property of their ownership which either it is empty (not used) or it is leased to third party are not entitled to install a PV system.

40. How many PV systems can be installed by different persons on groups of residences on the same property?(*)

In cases of groups of residences built in the same field with one building permit, the installation of more than one PV systems is possible by different persons-owners of residences**, provided that with the vertical ownership the complete and exclusive ownership and use of the residences are substantiated**. However, in the cases which, despite the vertical ownership, the roof/roofs of the group of residences remain commonly used or co-owned, the installation of only one PV system is possible with the co-owners' consent.

41. Can a PV system included in the Special Program be installed on a property that is operating or will operate another PV plant on the ground/on the building that is not included in the Special Program?

Only one system can be installed in the same property either from the Special Program or other. In this last case, (that is, apart from the Special Program), the PV plant can be developed not only on the ground but also on the building.

42. Who is entitled to sign the Sworn Statement 1599/86 foreseen in the Ministerial Decision Ministerial Decision 9154 (Greek Government Gazette/583/B/14.04.2011)?(*)

With the Ministerial Decisions 36720 (Greek Government Gazette ΦΕΚ/ΑΑΠ/376/06.09.2010) and 40158 (Greek Government Gazette 1556/B/22.09.2010) as amended by the Ministerial Decision 9154 for the installation of PV systems on buildings and fields in the city plan areas and in settlements, as well as in areas outside the city plan, it is required the written notification of works and study elaboration of installation as well as energy efficiency of the PV systems submitted to the Network Operator by the owner of the PV system and **the engineer who supervises the installation** and is responsible for keeping the Ministerial Decisions terms, transferring to him the responsibility for inspection by the competent state bodies (City Planning Agency, City Planning and Architectural Control Committee, Services of the Ministry of Culture & Tourism etc.).

Consequently, the required Sworn Statement of L.1599/86 (document no 10 of the application form) can be signed by the Engineer (Licensed or Graduate) who has the right according to the existing regulations to supervise a complex project and undertakes full responsibility of installation for issues relative to city planning, buildings, site area etc.

In cases of technical companies, one engineer should be appointed as responsible and who will sign on behalf of the company.

It is pointed out that HEDNO, as operator of the Network, has the right to ask for the verification of the stated elements either by the presentation of additional documents or by sending relevant requests to competent state services (e.g. Building Offices).

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43. Who is entitled to sign the Sworn Statement of the Electrician Installer for the whole electrical installation of the PV system?

The Sworn Statement of the Electrician Installer, that is, document no 13 of the application form, required for the activation of the PV system, as well as the relevant documentation that accompanies it (plans, studies, description of anti-islanding, protection settings etc.) is signed by Licensed or graduated Electrical Engineers or Engineers of similar specialties with equivalent professional rights as the Engineers, Mechanical Engineers etc.

44. Should the Sworn Statement of Electrician Installer be certified for the whole installation?

The certification by the competent tax office is not required, given that prerequisite for the PV system installation is the existence of an active supply under the name of the property owner and consequently, it is not considered as new power supply.

45. What are the obligations that the owner of the PV system undertakes after its operation?

The owner of the PV system undertakes the following obligations:

- to conclude and maintain the Connection Agreement and Supply Agreement under his name.
- not to proceed to changes in the PV system capacity without prior notification to the Network Operator and to the Supplier.
- Not to intervene in the installation and operation of the PV system apart from the necessary works of maintenance and restoration of faults.
- To inform immediately and in detail the Supplier for any interruption in the PV system operation for more than five (5) days that is not due to force majeure.
- To inform immediately and in detail for any issue that affects the normal fulfillment of obligations deriving from the Netting Agreement.

46. Is it possible to install a PV system of the Special Program in:

a) Settlements that are characterized as traditional, historical parts of cities, listed buildings and

b) Areas of natural beauty?

The installation of PV systems of the Special Program:

a) **Is not allowed** in traditional settlements, historical parts of cities and listed buildings since the Ministerial decision defines that a PV system can be installed only in <u>vacant</u> areas after the approval of small scale works and not in buildings.

b) **Is allowed** in areas of natural beauty **provided that** their installation is not prohibited by the relevant protection legislation and that the installation is harmonized with the surrounding area. For this reason, an approval for small scale works is required which is granted after the consent of the competent City Planning and Architectural Inspection Committee.

47. Is it possible to install a PV system with trackers?

The Special Program refers to stable PV systems only. So, the installation of a PV system with trackers is prohibited and the connection activation cannot be accepted if such system is installed.

48. Is the installation of a PV system allowed in vacant area of a field following an approval for small scale works as mentioned in paragraph 5 in the Greek Government Gazette 1557/B/22.9.2010 and in article 1 of the Greek Government Gazette 376/6.9.2010?

Indeed, the installation of PV plants in vacant areas of fields is allowed according to Greek Government Gazette 583/14.04.11 following an approval of small scale works.

However, these PV plants **cannot be integrated into the Special Program** which its application framework refers to PV systems which are installed on buildings.

49. In case of cancellation of the PV system installation request, is the paid amount refunded?

In cases of submission of requests for cancellation of the PV system installation by the interested parties, provided that the request for connection cancellation is submitted after the signature of the Connection Offer and before the construction of works in the supply, part of the sum is refunded so as to regain the expenses make by HEDNO up to the stage of cancellation.

In cases which the request for cancellation is submitted after the construction of the supply (irrespective of whether the meter is installed or not) the paid amount is not refunded.

50. Is it possible to install a PV system on the roof of a building with supports for better performance?

For the installation of a PV system on roof, the installation must be realized within the roof area following its inclination so as to assure the aesthetic image of the building (Ministerial Decision 36720 Greek Government Gazette B 376/6-9-2010 & and its amendment Greek Government Gazette B 583/14-4-2011).

INDICATIVE EXAMPLES
OF ALLOWABLE INSTALLATION ON ROOFS

INDICATIVE EXAMPLES
OF NON ALLOWABLE INSTALLATION ON ROOFS

51. Is it possible to install a PV system on roof-top structure (open area – terrace) of a building with supports for better performance?

Above the maximum allowable height of the area and within the virtual solid body, the installation of PVs is allowed **only in horizontal position** (article 19 of NOK).

It is clarified that the installation of PVs **<u>is not allowed</u>** on arbors as well as on supports which form a roofed area.

INDICATIVE EXAMPLES
OF ALLOWABLE INSTALLATION ON ROOF-TOP STRUCTURES

INDICATIVE EXAMPLES
OF NON ALLOWABLE INSTALLATION ON ROOF-TOP STRUCTURES

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