



5 December 2025

# Installer obligations under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme

All industry participants play an active role in underpinning the safety and integrity of the Cheaper Home Batteries Program.

You are required to:

- ensure that small scale renewable systems are installed safely and meet all relevant standards
- play an active role in providing early notification of any systematic faults or safety risks that you become aware of to the relevant state or territory electrical safety regulator and the Clean Energy Regulator (CER).

The Cheaper Home Batteries Program has been highly successful. As of today, 150,600 solar batteries have been approved or are pending and 3.5 GW of storage capacity has been installed.

Households who directly purchase batteries are enjoying immediate benefits and reduced costs of energy. The program has also highlighted the substantial role that households can make to reducing network costs and the achievement of the government's target of 82% of electrical generation being sourced from renewable energy by 2030.

We want to acknowledge the work of all industry participants to date in making this program a success.

## Your obligations

As an accredited installer under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES), you are legally required to ensure that every installation is safe, compliant and meets all relevant Australian standards and state or territory requirements.

The CER verifies compliance through audits and on-site inspections. We conduct these inspections to confirm adherence to the following mandatory standards and regulations:

- Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 (including Regulations 20ACA), which outlines conditions for battery-connected small generations units
- AS/NZS 5139 – Safety of battery systems
- AS/NZS 4777 – Grid connection of energy systems via inverters
- AS/NZS 3000 – Wiring rules.

Recent inspections have revealed some common installation issues for solar batteries, primarily due to incorrect labelling for system shutdown and isolation procedures, and missing emergency services labels.





To maintain your accreditation and ensure compliance these requirements must be met. We encourage you to review your installation obligations and ensure all installations are fully compliant with the requirements.

[Solar Accreditation Australia](https://saaaustralia.com.au/)<sup>1</sup> (SAA) has resources to help reinforce your understanding of the installation standards.

In addition, we are commissioning additional training programs focusing on battery labelling requirements.

## What happens if you don't comply

We share all inspection results with state and territory safety regulators, as well as SAA. The CER and these bodies may take compliance action.

When you sign mandatory installation declarations, you confirm that your work complies with all required standards. Failure to meet these obligations has serious consequences, including being suspended from participating in the scheme.

Under the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 (Regulations), we may declare an installer ineligible if:

- 3 or more inspection reports have adverse findings (Regulation 47)
- 3 or more written statements have false or misleading information, including both solar PV and battery systems (Regulation 20AG).

It is your responsibility as an accredited installer to be aware of all installation requirements. For information and training on these requirements, visit [SAA](https://saaaustralia.com.au/)<sup>1</sup>.

## New requirements to claim STCs

To address non-compliance, the CER is implementing additional requirements in early 2026. You will be required to:

- take geotagged and timestamped photographs of critical labelling and signage for each installation
- provide these photographs to us as part of your compliance paperwork.

These photographs will complement existing mandatory on-site verification photos and may be audited by the CER at any time. Failure to comply will result in failed STC claims and compliance action.

We aim to publish guidance on our new requirements on our website early next year.

## Reporting of faults and issues with solar batteries

Recent incidents, such as the overheating and damage to AC plugs, demonstrate that serious risks can arise when faults are not escalated swiftly. The manufacturer is working with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and state and territory regulators to address the issue. This case underscores the need for everyone working with solar batteries to act decisively and report identified faults immediately.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://saaaustralia.com.au/>



We expect all installers to escalate any significant risks without delay to:

- the relevant manufacturer
- appropriate state and territory electrical safety regulator/s
- appropriate state and territory consumer protection regulators
- the ACCC.

These bodies are responsible for assessing product safety and managing recalls. Your cooperation is essential to ensure public safety and maintain trust in renewable energy technologies.

We can be contacted on 1300 553 542 or via [enquiries@cer.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cer.gov.au) and will assist in ensuring that significant issues are referred to the appropriate regulator.

To ensure the effective and efficient escalation of issues, we have made the decision to establish a register of significant events across the distributed energy system.

This is to ensure appropriate and timely responses can be effectively coordinated across regulatory authorities. It will add an additional channel for regulatory coordination, but it does not replace the direct responsibility of manufacturers, installers and other industry participants to regulators.

## Next steps

More information about the new installation requirements will be provided soon. You must familiarise yourself with these changes and prepare to implement them in early 2026. Failure to comply may result in failed STC claims, or loss of accreditation.

We will continue to work with safety regulators and SAA to strengthen training and improve compliance.

For more information, visit [small-scale renewable energy system inspections](https://cer.gov.au/schemes/renewable-energy-target/small-scale-renewable-energy-scheme/small-scale-renewable-energy-systems/small-scale-renewable-energy-system-inspections)<sup>2</sup>.

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