



TOP TIPS: FOR PV QA

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1 INTRODUCTION

This 'Top Tips' doc' is intended for individuals or organizations without significant PV experience. It highlights some key areas to consider for Quality Assurance of PV. It is therefore a simple set of 'starter' items for the QA of PV.

2 BASIC PV QA – POSSIBLE CHECKS

Different organisations will take different approaches to QA. Your QA might include looking at 100% of PV jobs or at just a small % (e.g. 10%). Proper electrical checks require electrical qualifications, and electrical checks by a suitably qualified person might be a part of your QA. But the below is focused on the type of checks that can be carried out by somebody delivering WH:LG – who is unlikely to have electrical qualifications!

Be clear in all your documentation: starting from procurement; in your contracts; and in delivery – that your QA checks are NOT 'sign-off', or any transfer of responsibility for installation quality or compliance (unless you are specifically and intentionally doing that).

2.1 DESIGN & CONNECTION:

These items can be checked prior to installation.

- **Size:**
 - Does the PV design size meet the intended outcomes for the project?
- **Location**
 - **Panels**
 - Are the panels on a sensible elevation (or elevations)?
 - Has shading been taken into account?
 - Are roof obstructions/ penetrations taken into account?
 - **Inverter**
 - Is the inverter location external?
 - If not, is this agreed and are fire precautions included?
- **Structural**
 - Has the structure been signed off as robust for the installation?
- **DNO**
 - Is the DNO notification in place pre-install (for G98 multiples, or G99)?



2.2 INSTALLATION

- **Generation**
 - Check that the PV is generating!
- **As design**
 - Simple checks like the No. of panels and the correct roof elevation[s].
- **Visual – simple visual check**
 - Do the panels appear neat, aligned, and to be in a flat plane?
 - Are there any broken tiles visible around the installation?
- **Bird mesh**
 - Is the bird mesh in place?
- **Structural**
 - If structural work was required does this appear to have been done?
- **Inverter**
 - Is the inverter location as per design (outside)?
 - If design is for internal location – is there fire protection?
- **Ventilation**
 - As design?

2.3 RESIDENT CLIENT

- **Advice**
 - Has the Resident Client had clear advice wrt maximizin benefit from the system?
- **SEG**
 - Is an export capable meter in place?
 - If not has the Resident Client had advice about getting one?
 - Has the Resident Client had advice or support with regard to obtaining SEG (assuming SEG is not being claimed by others)?
 - If tariff support is part of your delivery has this been provided.

2.4 CERTIFICATION

- **DNO**
 - Has the G98 connection been notified?
- **MCS**
 - Check that MCS Certification has been provided.
- **TrustMark**
 - Check that TrustMark lodgment has been completed.
- **Electrical**
 - Check that Electrical certification is provided.
 - Consider some electrical checks by a qualified person.

3 FURTHER DOCS

- Top 10 Tips for PV: <https://www.andrewsenv.co.uk/docs-by-measure/>
- Inverters in Lofts FAQ: <https://www.andrewsenv.co.uk/fa-qs/>
- MNZH PV guide for social housing **coming soon!**