

Guidelines for Generation Disconnect Identification

Listed below are sections of the National Electrical Code (“NEC”) pertinent to any required marking or labeling at any service entrance equipment, the service disconnecting means or any PV disconnect devices.

In general the signage must meet the following:

1. Must be permanent in nature and capable of withstanding the conditions of its location including:
 - Adverse weather (wind, snow, ice, rain, etc.)
 - Sunlight (UV tolerant)
 - Not subject to concealment (painting, foliage, construction, etc.)

The preferred material is hi-contrast engraved laminated plastic, either screwed or permanently bonded to the device or wall immediately adjacent to the device.

2. Must be clearly legible
 - Title lettering must be of sufficient size and content to adequately convey its purpose from a distance of not less than 15 feet.
 - Body lettering must be legible from not less than 3 feet.
3. Must contain adequate content to convey it’s purpose
 - Disconnecting means shall be adequately labeled to identify its function and also include any necessary precautionary instructions.
 - Placards indicating the location of other devices shall include the name and function of the device as well as clear directions to its location.

Selected NEC Provisions

110.22 Identification of Disconnecting Means.

(A) General. Each disconnecting means shall be legibly marked to indicate its purpose unless located and arranged so the purpose is evident. The marking shall be of sufficient durability to withstand the environment involved.

690.14 Additional Provisions. (C) Requirements for Disconnecting Means.

(2) Marking. Each photovoltaic system disconnecting means shall be permanently marked to identify it as a photovoltaic system disconnect.

690.17 Switch or Circuit Breaker. The disconnecting means for ungrounded conductors shall consist of a manually operable switch(es) or circuit breaker(s) complying with all of the following requirements:

- (1) Located where readily accessible
- (2) Externally operable without exposing the operator to contact with live parts

- (3) Plainly indicating whether in the open or closed position
- (4) Having an interrupting rating sufficient for the nominal circuit voltage and the current that is available at the line terminals of the equipment Where all terminals of the disconnecting means may be energized in the open position, a warning sign shall be mounted on or adjacent to the disconnecting means. The sign shall be clearly legible and have the following words or equivalent:

WARNING
ELECTRIC SHOCK HAZARD.
DO NOT TOUCH TERMINALS.
TERMINALS ON BOTH THE LINE
AND LOAD SIDES MAY BE ENERGIZED
IN THE OPEN POSITION.

690.56 Identification of Power Sources.

(B) Facilities with Utility Services and PV Systems. Buildings or structures with both utility service and a photovoltaic system shall have a permanent plaque or directory providing the location of the service disconnecting means and the photovoltaic system disconnecting means if not located at the same location.

705.10 Directory. A permanent plaque or directory, denoting all electric power sources on or in the premises, shall be installed at each service equipment location and at locations of all electric power production sources capable of being interconnected.