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# **Photovoltaic Inverter Certification Forum**

Do photovoltaic modules need a certification test protocol?

A certification test protocol that delivers an accurate and credible estimate of component and system performance is needed. Even with current component qualification information, photovoltaic module performance data must be modified to account for actual conditions.

#### What is a photovoltaic inverter test?

Tests cover the inverter operation, performance and safety, the photovoltaic array installation, the system operation and applicable instrumentation. The tests described are suitable for inverter and/or system acceptance purposes or can be performed at any time for troubleshooting or to evaluate inverter/system performance and operation.

## Which inverter is exempt from a utility voltage test?

Listed inverters with integral controllers are exempt from this test. Purpose: Verify the proper operation of the inverter under loss of utility condition. In this test, the time it takes for the inverter to disconnect from the ac grid after loss of utility voltage is determined.

### How do you operate a photovoltaic inverter?

Verify the operation of the systems local control functions. Start with the inverter in shutdown mode. Ensure that the photovoltaic array is connected and operational, that there is sufficient sunlight to operate the inverter, and that the ac and dc contactors and disconnects are closed.

### How accurate are photovoltaic test results?

Tests are described as generically as possible with no intention to specify accuracy of test equipment of the test results. This guideline provides an unbiased description of a comprehensive compilation of tests that should be used to certify photovoltaic components or complete photovoltaic systems.

#### How is photovoltaic system performance determined?

Photovoltaic system performance can be determined as the ac system output under Performance Test Conditions(PTC)3 which are defined as Data should be sampled at an interval of no greater than 60 seconds and averaged over an interval of no more than 30 minutes.

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Those who are unfamiliar with how PV works, the elements of a PV system, and/or solar power ROI should take the first course of the specialization, Solar Energy Systems Overview. Material includes online lectures,

videos, demos, ...

The tests that an "advanced inverter" must pass to receive UL 1741 certification were designed to meet or

exceed the interconnection requirements set by the IEEE 1547-2018 standard and include additional tests ...

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