

PROCESS FLOW FOR IMPORT OF SOLAR PV EQUIPMENT IN PAKISTAN

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The Federal Government of Pakistan vide SRO 604 604(I)/2019, dated May 28, 2019 (“SRO 604”) issued amendments in the Import Policy Order, 2016 (“IPO”). The purpose of issuance of the SRO 604 was to adopt international standards for import of solar PV equipment irrespective of the country/source of origin and uniform applicability of the standards all over the country. Subsequent to issuance of this SRO 604, the importers/vendors requested Ministry of Commerce to issue a process flow that would define steps that are needed to be followed while importing solar PV equipment for uniformity and better understanding. This document provides process flow that the importers/vendors would have to follow for the import of equipment related to solar PV systems from abroad as per SRO 604.

1. DEFINITIONS:

- **Accredited Agency:** An agency, accredited by an Accreditation Body in accordance with the relevant standards (ISO/IEC 17065 for conformance and ISO/IEC 17020 for pre-shipment inspection) having competence to test and certify third parties, behave ethically, employ suitable quality assurance and its practices are acceptable.
- **Accreditation Body:** An agency / organization, operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011, that provides accreditation services for accreditation of entities including Accredited Agencies and Accredited Laboratories.
- **Accredited Laboratory:** A laboratory, accredited by an Accreditation Body in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17025, having technical competence to perform specific types of testing, measurement and calibration.
- **Certificate of Conformity:** A document, certified and issued by an Accredited Agency at the Port of Origin, necessarily be a third party, that the supplied good or service meets the required specifications.
- **Country of Export:** Place from where the shipment is exported to destination.
- **Port of Origin:** Place where a shipment actually originated (began its journey towards its destination).
- **Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate:** A document, certified and issued by an Accredited Agency at the Port of Origin or Country of Export, necessarily be a third party, that provides inspection of contract goods prior to shipment so as to ascertain their quality, quantity and price.
- **Type Test Certificate:** A document, certified and issued by an Accredited Laboratory, that can be located either at the Country of Origin or anywhere else, that provides the verification of all the rated characteristics of the equipment as assigned by the manufacturer, by means of the performance of all type tests specified by the international standards.

2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY OF THE PROCESS FLOW

The scope of process flow stated herein is limited and applicable to the products stated in the SRO 604 i.e. solar PV panels¹, inverters, charge controllers, junction boxes², cables and standalone solar products including solar kits, solar water pumps, solar water heaters and solar cookers. The importers/vendors are required to read this process flow together with the SRO 604 and relevant provisions of the IPO for better understanding and compliance to the requirements stated therein.

¹ Since there are no standards for manufacturing solar PV cells, therefore provisions of SRO 604 should not be implemented on import of solar PV cells for manufacturing/assembly of solar PV panels.

² It is clarified that these junction boxes are standalone external boxes as described by the HS Code, these are used for connecting solar PV panels to inverters as external product, these are not part of solar PV panels itself. The junctions boxes imported as part for manufacturing solar PV panels do not fall under this category. Therefore, provisions of SRO 604 should not applicable to those junctions boxes imported as part for manufacturing solar PV panels.

3. PROCESS FLOW FROM MANUFACTURING TO CLEARANCE FROM THE PORT

The Figure 1 below provides schematic process flow for import of goods/products from manufacturing till clearance from the ports in Pakistan.

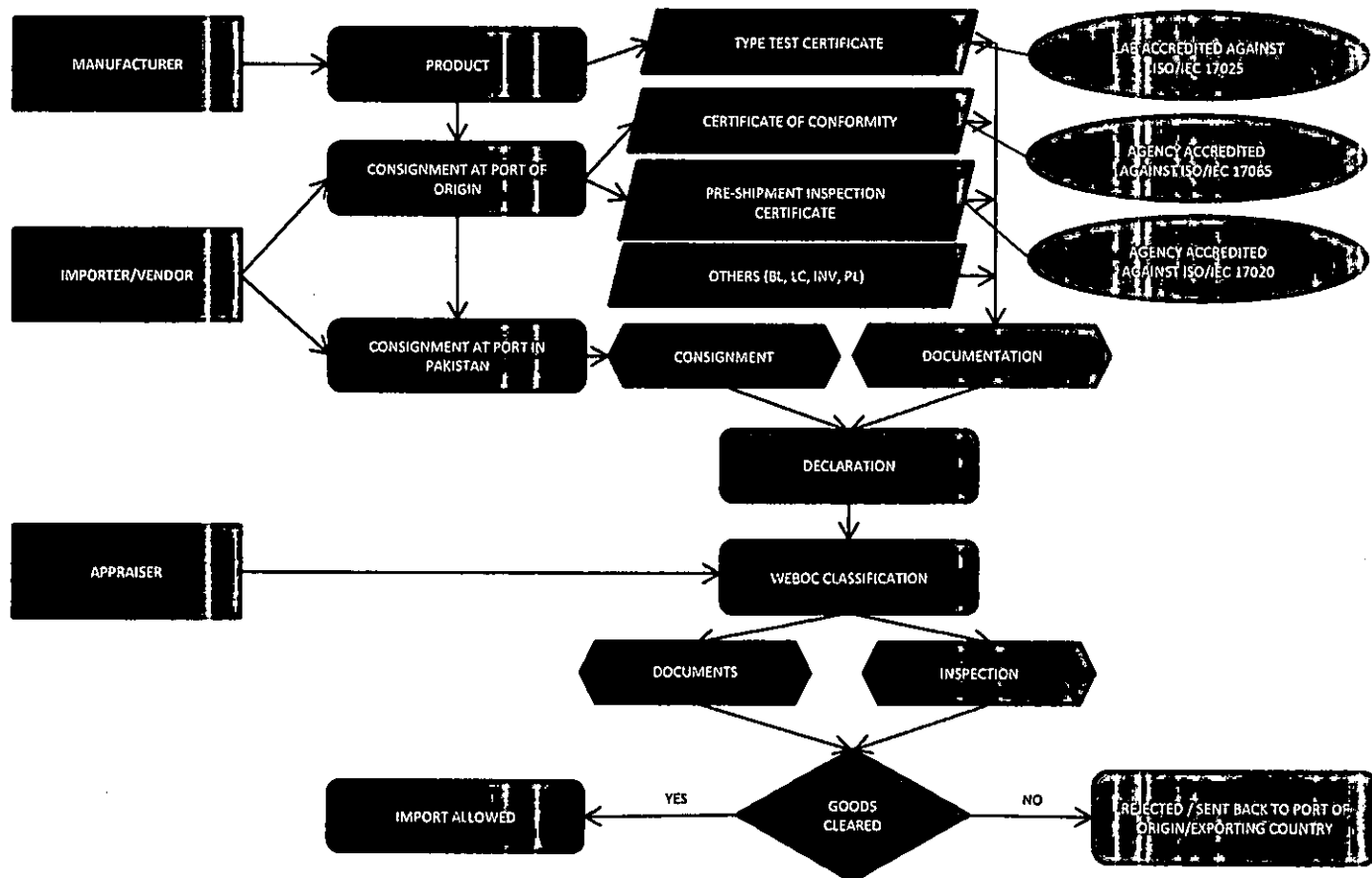


Figure 1: Process Flow for Import of Solar PV Equipment in Pakistan subsequent to SRO 604³

The above process is briefly described under following headings.

3.1 Product Manufacturing

The solar PV products / goods have been manufacturing all over the world. The manufacturers manufacture products / goods as per related standards for quality, performance and delivery. The importers/vendors are required to ensure that the manufactures are conforming to the standards as approved and adopted by Pakistan Standard and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) for solar PV equipment and given in the SRO 604/IPO. Import of all those solar PV products / goods not conforming to any of the standards as approved/adopted by PSQCA and given in the SRO 604/IPO would not be allowed for imports.

³ The SRO 604 states that the standards for solar PV equipment incorporated in Appendix-N are approved by PSQCA. The process stated in the SRO 604 does not require going back to PSQCA for any NOC.

3.1.1 Product Testing

The manufacturer is required to undertake type test of the products in accordance with related international IEC standards, as adopted by Pakistan, through Accredited Laboratories duly recognized by the Accreditation Bodies as per international standards and best practices. The standards as adopted by PSQCA for solar PV equipment are now part of the IPO through SRO 604. The Type Test Certificate is to be issued by an Accredited Laboratory in the Country of Origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. For avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that if the Accredited Laboratory is not in the list of Accreditation Body of the Port of Origin or Country of Export, then its certificate would not be accepted/entertained. The importers/vendors would be required to keep them updated about the accreditation status of the Accredited Laboratories through the website of Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC). A screenshot of clarification issued by PNAC in this regard is given at Figure 2 below.

Clarification Regarding Solar Panel SRO
604(I) / 2019:

Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) is member of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC).

The shipment that accompanied an inspection report/certificate issued by an Inspection Agency, accredited with an Accreditation Body (AB) which is a member of International and Regional Accreditation forums i.e., ILAC and APAC are acceptable.

The details of the member economies are available on the relevant websites;

ILAC = <https://ilac.org/signatory-search/>

APAC = <https://www.apac-accreditation.org/membership/>

For further information:

Ground Floor, 1-C Constitution Avenue,

Opposite Prime Minister Office, G-5/2 Islamabad,
Pakistan

Phone: +92-51-9206044

Figure 2: Explanation issued by PNAC for accreditation

3.2 Import of Consignments by Importer/Vendor

The importers/vendors place orders to their respective suppliers/manufacturers for import solar PV equipment/products as per their requirements and/or in accordance with their contractual obligations. With the amendments in IPO through SRO 604, the importers/vendors are now obligated to import only those solar PV equipment/products that are compliant to the standards as adopted by PSQCA. For ease of importers, a checklist is prepared and provided at Annex-I to verify that the solar PV equipment/products as imported by importers/vendors comply with relevant standards as adopted by PSQCA.

3.2.1 Consignment at port of Origin / exporting country

The suppliers/exporters would forward the shipment as per the order placed by the importers/vendors to the Port of Oorigin / Country of Export Please make it sure that before the shipment is loaded, following documents must come along with the shipment:

- A. Invoice of shipment
- B. Packing list
- C. Bill of lading
- D. Copy of letter of credit or import contract / bank contract
- E. The manifest machine number and group number (set by customs depart)
- F. Type Test Certificate
- G. Certificate of Conformity
- H. Pre-shipment Inspection Certificate

3.2.1.1 Certificate of Conformity

The Certificate of Conformity is to be issued by an Accredited Agency in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services. For avoidance for doubt, it is clarified that if the product certification body is not in the list of Accreditation Body, then its certificate would not be accepted/entertained. The importers/vendors would be required to keep them updated about the accreditation status of the product certification body through the website of PNAC as explained above.

3.2.1.2 Pre-shipment Inspection Certificate

The pre-shipment inspection certificate is to be issued by an Accredited Agency in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection. For avoidance for doubt, it is clarified that if the inspection body is not in the list of Accreditation Body, then its certificate would not be accepted/entertained. The importers/vendors would be required to keep them updated about the accreditation status of the inspection body through the website of PNAC as explained above.

3.3 Consignment at Port in Pakistan

The shipment/consignment as exported by the suppliers/exporters as per order placed by the importers/vendors would reach to respective port of delivery in Pakistan. The port authorities would present the consignment to the appraiser/examiner for further processing.

3.4 Documentation

The importers/vendors would have to submit/present all the documentation before the customs officers as stated under heading 3.2.1 above.

3.5 Declaration

The importers/vendors would have to declare the consignment as per the Goods Declaration (GD) procedure enabling processing of the consignment for clearance. All the documentation along with GD(s) would be uploaded on the WEBOC.

3.6 Steps to be taken at Custom Officers' end

The consignment imported by the importers/vendors would be presented before the customs officers for inspection / examination. The customs officers would be following normal process as per their rules and procedures for clearance of the consignment. A brief of activities to be taken is given under below headings.

3.6.1 Documents Review

The customs' officers will review the documents as submitted by the importers/vendors as stated under heading 3.2.1 above. If the documentation is complete as per above, the consignment will be forwarded for clearance. If, documentation found incomplete, particularly, requirements stated above, the consignment will not be allowed for further clearing and would be return to port of origin/exporting country.

3.6.2 Product Inspection/Examination

The customs officers will inspect/examine the imported consignment as per the documentation and declaration. Any deficiencies identified by the customs officers at this stage would be communicated to the importers/vendors for rectification. After complete inspection/examination, the consignment will be forwarded for clearance.

3.6.3 Clearance of Consignment

After confirmation of clauses 3.6.1 and 3.6.2, the consignment would be cleared for import in Pakistan.

3.7 Import of Consignment to Pakistan

After successful clearance, the importers/vendors will be allowed to import the consignment and sell it in the local market as per their commitments/contracts/work orders etc.

3.8 Difficulties

If any difficulties are encountered in implementation of this process flow, AEDB may like to consider for appropriate solutions.

Checklist for the importers of solar PV equipment

Manufacturer / Label: _____

Importer: _____

Importer Address: _____

PCT heading: _____

Equipment Type (mark relevant class):

	Equipment classification	Continue with	Mark with
A	PV Module	Chapter 1 and chapter 2	
B	Inverter	Chapter 1 and chapter 3	
C	PV Cables	Chapter 1 and chapter 4	
D	Charge Controller	Chapter 1 and chapter 5	
E	Junction Boxes	Chapter 1 and chapter 6	
F	Stand-alone solar equipment	Chapter 1 and chapter 7	
F.1	Stand-alone lightning kit	Additional chapter 8	
F.2	Stand-alone solar water pumps	Additional chapter 9	

Please notice: The required import documentation has to be delivered in the same order and numerated as stated on the checklist.

1. General import documentation:

	Mark with: ✓/✗
a. invoice of shipment	
b. packing list	
c. bill of lading	
d. copy of letter of credit or import contract / bank contract	
e. additional information have to be stated in the paper:	
✓ the manifest machine number and group number (set by customs department)	
f. Status AEDB certificate (if applicable):	
✓ Approved (please provide certificate)	
✓ Pending (Please provide Date of Submission): _____	
✓ not applied if not applicable (Kindly contact AEDB for certification process, if applicable).	

2. Import of PV modules required documentation (Since there are no standards for manufacturing solar PV cells, therefore provisions of SRO 604 should not be implemented on import of solar PV cells for manufacturing/assembly of solar PV panels.)

	Mark with: ✓/✗
a. Type test certificate as issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories for compliance with::	
✓ IEC 61730-1, Solar PV Modules	
✓ IEC 61730-2, Solar PV Modules – Crystalline Type	
✓ IEC 61215-1, Solar PV Modules – Crystalline Type	
✓ IEC 61215, Solar PV Modules – Thin Film (CdTe based)	
✓ IEC 61730-1, Solar PV Modules – Thin Film (amorphous silicon based)	
✓ IEC 61730-2, Solar PV Modules – Thin Film (amorphous silicon based)	
✓ IEC 61215-1, Solar PV Modules – Thin Film (amorphous silicon based)	
✓ IEC 61730-1, Solar PV Modules – Thin Film (In, GA based)	
✓ IEC 61730-2, Solar PV Modules – Thin Film (In, GA based)	
✓ PS: IEC 62670: Photovoltaic Concentrator (CPV)	
b. Certificate of conformity issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Certificate of Pre-shipment inspection as issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.	
d. Data Sheet including information about:	
✓ Performance Parameter STC Under Standard Test Conditions (STC) of irradiance of 1000W/m ² , spectrum AM 1.5 and cell temperature of 25°C	
✓ Nominal Maximum Power (Pmax)	
✓ Optimum Operating Voltage (Vmp)	

✓ Optimum Operating Current (Imp)	
✓ Open Circuit Voltage (Voc)	
✓ Mechanical data/ specification of a module	
✓ Temperature coefficients/ characteristics	
✓ Conformity label (after introduction in Pakistan)	
e. Warranty documentation:	
✓ Limited product warranty of 10 years or longer	
✓ Performance warranty of 90% at the end of 10 years and 80% at the end of 25 years for crystalline and thin film technology or more	

3. Import of PV inverter required documentation:

	Mark with: ✓
a. Type Test Certificate as issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. for compliance with::	
✓ IEC 62109-1: Safety of power converters for use in photovoltaic power systems – Part 1: General requirements,	
✓ IEC 62109-2: Safety of power converters for use in photovoltaic power systems - Part 2: Particular requirements for inverters,	
✓ IEC 61683: Power conditioners-procedure for measuring efficiency	
✓ IEC 62116: Protection against Islanding of Grid (for on-grid and hybrid inverters only)	
✓ IEC 61727: Characteristics of the utility interface (for on-grid and hybrid inverters only)	
b. Certificate for Conformity as issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate as issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.	
d. Data sheet including information about: Performance parameter	
✓ Nominal Input (DC) and Output (AC) Voltage, Current, Power	
✓ Efficiency (max. efficiency and the European efficiency)	
✓ Protection/Fuses	
✓ Conformity label (after introduction in Pakistan)	
e. Warranty documentation	
✓ Product warranty of 2 years or more	

4. Import of junction boxes required documentation (It is clarified that these junction boxes are standalone external boxes as described by the HS Code, these are used for connecting solar PV panels to inverters as external product, these are not part of solar PV panels itself. The junctions boxes imported as part for manufacturing solar PV panels do not fall under this category. Therefore, provisions of SRO 604 should not applicable to those junctions boxes imported as part for manufacturing solar PV panels.):

The junction box equipment has to be delivered in one shipment.

	Mark with: ✓
a. Type Test Certificate (issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025; General requirements for the	

competence of testing and calibration laboratories for compliance with:	
✓ IEC 61439-1: Low-voltage switchgear and control gear assemblies - Part 1: General rules,	
✓ IEC 60947-3 + A1:2012: Low-voltage switchgear and control gear - Part 3: Switches, disconnectors, switch-disconnectors and fuse-combination units,	
b. Certificate for Conformity as issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate as issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.	
d. Data sheet including information about: Performance parameter	
✓ IP level	
✓ Protection/fuses	
e. Warranty documentation	
✓ Product warranty of 2 years or more	

5. Import of PV cables required documentation:

	Mark with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Type Test Certificate (issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories for compliance with: IEC 62930: Electric cables for photovoltaic systems with a voltage rating of 1.5 kV DC	
b. Certificate for Conformity as issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate as issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.	
d. Data sheet including information about: Performance parameter	
✓ Material	
✓ Technical data	
e. Warranty documentation	
✓ Product warranty of 2 years or more	

6. Import of Charge controllers, Balance of System components of solar PV systems, Low-voltage switchgear and control gear assemblies and power converters for use in PV power systems required documentation:

	Mark with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Type Test Certificate as issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. for compliance	

with:	
✓ IEC 62509: Battery Charge Controllers For Photovoltaic Systems – Performance And Functioning and	
✓ IEC 62093: Balance-of-system components for photovoltaic systems - Design qualification natural environments	
✓ IEC 61439-1: Low-voltage switchgear and Control gear assemblies	
✓ IEC 60947-3: Low-voltage switchgear and Control gear assemblies	
✓ IEC 62109-1&2: Power converters for use in PV power systems	
b. Certificate for Conformity as issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate as issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.	
d. Data sheet including information about: Performance parameter	
✓ Electrical Parameter	
✓ Self-consumption	
e. Warranty documentation	
✓ Product warranty of 2 years or more	

7. Import of stand-alone solar home systems (SHS) / solar equipment required documentation:

	Mark with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Type Test Certificate (issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories for compliance with:	
✓ IEC/TS 62257-9-5: Recommendations for small renewable energy and hybrid systems for rural electrification	
b. Certificate for Conformity as issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate as issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.	
d. Data sheet including information about: Performance parameter	
✓ Electrical Parameter	
✓ Conformity label (after introduction in Pakistan)	
e. Warranty documentation	
✓ Product warranty of 1-5 years or more	

**7.1 Stand-alone Solar Lanterns/Pico Lights/Solar Torches/Electric Lighting Appliances/Kits
Additional required documentation:**

	Mark with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Type Test Certificate (issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. for compliance with IEC/TS 62257-9-5 together with Lighting Global Standards and procedures, which applies to stand-alone rechargeable electric lighting appliances or kits that can be installed by a typical user without employing a technician	
b. Certificate for Conformity as issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate as issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.	

7.2 Stand-alone Solar Water Pump Additional required documentation:

	Mark with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Type Test Certificate (issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories for compliance with IEC 62253, which applies to solar water pumps that can be used for water pumping for drinking as well as irrigation purposes	
b. Certificate for Conformity (issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate (issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.)	

7.3 Solar Water Heaters Additional required documentation:

	Mark with: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Type Test Certificate (issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories for compliance with:	
Solar Water Heaters, solar heating-Domestic water heating system	
✓ PS:ISO9459-1&2	
Solar Water heater for dwelling based on JIS 4111	
✓ PS-5160	
Solar storage tank based on JIS 4113	

✓ PS-5160	
Solar Water Heaters-Elastomeric materials for absorbers, connecting pipes and fittings	
✓ PS:ISO9808	
Thermal performance of glazed liquid heating collectors including pressure drop	
✓ PS:ISO9806-1	
Thermal solar system and components: factor made system	
✓ PS:ISO4355	
Thermal solar system and components: Collectors	
✓ PS:ISO4356	
Solar energy - Water heating systems	
✓ PS:ISO10217/2013	
b. Certificate for Conformity (issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate (issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.)	

7.4 Solar Cookers Additional required documentation:

	Mark with <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Type Test Certificate (issued by an accredited laboratory in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories for compliance with: Solar Cooker – Box type: Requirements ✓ PS 5325 & IS: 13429-1 Solar Cooker – Box type: Components ✓ PS 5326 & IS: 13429-2	
b. Certificate for Conformity (issued by an accredited product certification body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment-Requirements for bodies certifying products and services.	
c. Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate (issued by an accredited inspection body in the country of origin or exporting country operating in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020, General criteria for the operation of bodies performing inspection.)	