

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF TOMBALL, TEXAS, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (FF-1) TO SECTION 20-28, AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, OF ARTICLE II, FIRE CODE, OF CHAPTER 20, FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION; REGULATING THE INSTALLATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, RETROFITTING, TESTING, COMMISSIONING AND DECOMMISSIONING OF ENERGY SYSTEMS USED FOR GENERATING OR STORING ENERGY; PROVIDING A PENALTY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00 PER DAY FOR VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION HEREOF, WITH EACH DAY CONSTITUTING A SEPARATE OFFENSE; PROVIDING A REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND MAKING OTHER FINDINGS RELATED THERETO.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, the International Code Congress has added a new Chapter 12 to the International Fire Code to address Energy Systems, including standby and emergency power, portable generators, photovoltaic systems, fuel cell energy systems and other energy storage systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Tomball, Texas finds it to be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of its citizens to amend the International Fire Code to regulate energy systems; **now, therefore**,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOMBALL, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** The facts and matters set forth in the preamble to this ordinance are hereby found to be true and correct.

**Section 2.** The Code of Ordinances of the City of Tomball Texas is amended by inserting a new subsection (ff-1) between subsections (ff) and (gg) of Section 20-28, Amendments to the 2015 International Fire Code, of Article II, Fire Code, of Chapter 20 Fire Prevention and Protection, that shall read as follows:

“(ff-1) Chapter 12. Energy Systems, of the 2021 International Fire Code is hereby adopted. See Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 2023-27”

**Section 3.**     **Repealer.** All ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, repealed.

**Section 4.**     **Severability.** In the event any clause, phrase, provision, sentence, or part of this Ordinance or the application of the same to any person or circumstance shall for any reason be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect, impair, or invalidate this Ordinance as a whole or any part or provision hereof other than the part declared to be invalid or unconstitutional; and the City Council of the City of Tomball, Texas, declares that it would have passed each and every part of the same notwithstanding the omission of any such part thus declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, whether there be one or more parts.

**Section 5.**     **Penalty.** Any person who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

**Section 5.**     **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect fourteen (14) days from and after its passage and the publication of the caption hereof, as provided by law and the City's Home Rule Charter.

FIRST READING:

READ, PASSED AND APPROVED AS SET OUT BELOW AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOMBALL HELD ON THE 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2023.

COUNCILMAN FORD	_____
COUNCILMAN STOLL	_____
COUNCILMAN DUNAGIN	_____
COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND	_____
COUNCILMAN PARR	_____

SECOND READING:

READ, PASSED AND APPROVED AS SET OUT BELOW AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOMBALL HELD ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2023.

COUNCILMAN FORD	_____
COUNCILMAN STOLL	_____
COUNCILMAN DUNAGIN	_____
COUNCILMAN TOWNSEND	_____
COUNCILMAN PARR	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Klein Quinn, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracylynn Garcia, City Secretary

# EXHIBIT “A” TO ORDINANCE 2023-07

## CHAPTER 12 ENERGY SYSTEMS

### SECTION 1201 GENERAL

#### 1201.1 Scope.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, retrofitting, testing, commissioning, and decommissioning of energy systems used for generating or storing energy. It shall not apply to equipment associated with the generation, control, transformation, transmission, or distribution of energy installations that is under the exclusive control of an electric utility or lawfully designated agency.

#### 1201.2 Electrical wiring and equipment.

Electrical wiring and equipment used in connection with energy systems shall be installed and maintained in accordance with this chapter, [Section 603](#) and [NFPA 70](#).

#### 1201.3 Mixed system installation.

Where *approved*, the aggregate nameplate kWh energy of all energy storage systems in a *fire area* shall not exceed the maximum quantity specified for any of the energy systems in this chapter. Where required by the *fire code official*, a hazard mitigation analysis shall be provided and *approved* in accordance with [Section 104.8.2](#) to evaluate any potential adverse interaction between the various energy systems and technologies.

### SECTION 1202 DEFINITIONS

#### 1202.1 Definitions.

The following terms are defined in [Chapter 2](#):

**BATTERY SYSTEM, STATIONARY STORAGE.**

**BATTERY TYPES.**

**CAPACITOR ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM.**

**CRITICAL CIRCUIT.**

**EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEM.**

**ENERGY STORAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.**

**ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (ESS).**

**ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM, ELECTROCHEMICAL.**

**ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM, MOBILE.**

**ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM, WALK-IN UNIT.**

**ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM CABINET.**

**ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM COMMISSIONING.**

**ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM DECOMMISSIONING.**

**FUEL CELL POWER SYSTEM, STATIONARY.**

**PORTABLE GENERATOR.**

**STANDBY POWER SYSTEM.**

### SECTION 1203 EMERGENCY AND STANDBY POWER SYSTEMS

#### 1203.1 General.

Emergency power systems and standby power systems required by this code or the [International Building Code](#) shall comply with [Sections 1203.1.1](#) through [1203.1.9](#).

##### 1203.1.1 Stationary generators.

Stationary emergency and standby power generators required by this code shall be *listed* in accordance with [UL 2200](#).

##### 1203.1.2 Fuel line piping protection.

Fuel lines supplying a generator set inside a high-rise building shall be separated from areas of the building other than the room the generator is located in by one of the following methods:

1. A fire-resistant pipe-protection system that has been tested in accordance with [UL 1489](#). The system shall be installed as tested and in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and shall have a rating of not less than 2 hours. Where the building is protected throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#), the required rating shall be reduced to 1 hour.
2. An assembly that has a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 2 hours. Where the building is protected throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#), the required *fire-resistance rating* shall be reduced to 1 hour.
3. Other *approved methods*.

#### **1203.1.3 Installation.**

Emergency power systems and standby power systems shall be installed in accordance with the *International Building Code*, [NFPA 70](#), [NFPA 110](#) and [NFPA 111](#).

#### **1203.1.4 Load transfer.**

Emergency power systems shall automatically provide secondary power within 10 seconds after primary power is lost, unless specified otherwise in this code. Standby power systems shall automatically provide secondary power within 60 seconds after primary power is lost, unless specified otherwise in this code.

#### **1203.1.5 Load duration.**

Emergency power systems and standby power systems shall be designed to provide the required power for a minimum duration of 2 hours without being refueled or recharged, unless specified otherwise in this code.

#### **1203.1.6 Uninterruptable power source.**

An uninterrupted source of power shall be provided for equipment where required by the manufacturer's instructions, the listing, this code or applicable referenced standards.

#### **1203.1.7 Interchangeability.**

Emergency power systems shall be an acceptable alternative for installations that require standby power systems.

#### **1203.1.8 Group I-2 occupancies.**

In Group I-2 occupancies located in flood hazard areas established in [Section 1612.3](#) of the *International Building Code* where new essential electrical systems are installed, and where new essential electrical system generators are installed, the systems and generators shall be located and installed in accordance with [ASCE 24](#). Where connections for hook up of temporary generators are provided, the connections shall be located at or above the elevation required in [ASCE 24](#).

#### **1203.1.9 Maintenance.**

Existing installations shall be maintained in accordance with the original approval and [Section 1203.4](#).

#### **1203.2 Where required.**

Emergency and standby power systems shall be provided where required by [Sections 1203.2.1](#) through [1203.2.19](#).

##### **1203.2.1 Ambulatory care facilities.**

Essential electrical systems for ambulatory care facilities shall be in accordance with [Section 422.6](#) of the *International Building Code*.

##### **1203.2.2 Elevators and platform lifts.**

Standby power shall be provided for elevators and platform lifts as required in [Sections 604.3](#), [1009.4.1](#) and [1009.5](#).

##### **1203.2.3 Emergency responder communication coverage systems.**

Standby power shall be provided for inbuilding, two-way emergency responder communication coverage systems as required in [Section 510.4.2.3](#). The standby power supply shall be capable of operating the inbuilding, two-way emergency responder communication coverage system at 100-percent system operation capacity for a duration of not less than 12 hours.

**1203.2.4 Emergency voice/alarm communication systems.**

Standby power shall be provided for emergency voice/alarm communication systems in accordance with [NFPA 72](#).

**1203.2.5 Exhaust ventilation.**

Standby power shall be provided for mechanical exhaust ventilation systems as required in [Section 1207.6.1.2.1](#). The system shall be capable of powering the required load for a duration of not less than 2 hours.

**1203.2.6 Exit signs.**

Emergency power shall be provided for exit signs as required in [Section 1013.6.3](#). The system shall be capable of powering the required load for a duration of not less than 90 minutes.

**1203.2.7 Gas detection systems.**

Emergency power shall be provided for gas detection systems where required by [Sections 1203.2.10](#) and [1203.2.17](#). Standby power shall be provided for gas detection systems where required by [Sections 916.5](#) and [1207.6.1.2.4](#).

**1203.2.8 Group I-2 occupancies.**

Essential electrical systems for Group I-2 occupancies shall be in accordance with [Section 407.11](#) of the *International Building Code*.

**1203.2.9 Group I-3 occupancies.**

Power-operated sliding doors or power-operated locks for swinging doors in Group I-3 occupancies shall be operable by a manual release mechanism at the door. Emergency power shall be provided for the doors and locks.

**Exceptions:**

1. Emergency power is not required in facilities where provisions for remote locking and unlocking of occupied rooms in Occupancy Condition 4 are not required as set forth in the *International Building Code*.
2. Emergency power is not required where remote mechanical operating releases are provided.

**1203.2.10 Hazardous materials.**

Emergency and standby power shall be provided in occupancies with hazardous materials as required in the following sections:

1. [Sections 5004.7](#) and [5005.1.5](#) for hazardous materials.
2. [Sections 6004.2.2.8](#) and [6004.3.4.2](#) for highly toxic and toxic gases.
3. [Section 6204.1.11](#) for organic peroxides.

**1203.2.11 High-rise buildings.**

Standby power and emergency power shall be provided for high-rise buildings as required in [Section 403](#) of the *International Building Code*, and shall be in accordance with [Section 1203](#).

**1203.2.12 Special purpose horizontal sliding doors.**

Standby power shall be provided for horizontal sliding doors as required in [Section 1010.3.3](#). The standby power supply shall have a capacity to operate not fewer than 50 closing cycles of the door.

**1203.2.13 Hydrogen fuel gas rooms.**

Standby power shall be provided for hydrogen fuel gas rooms as required by [Section 5808.7](#).

**1203.2.14 Laboratory suites.**

Standby or emergency power shall be provided in accordance with [Section 5004.7](#) where *laboratory suites* are located above the sixth story above grade plane or located in a story below grade plane.

**1203.2.15 Means of egress illumination.**

Emergency power shall be provided for *means of egress* illumination in accordance with [Sections 1008.3](#) and [1104.5.1](#).

**1203.2.16 Membrane structures.**

Standby power shall be provided for auxiliary inflation systems in permanent membrane structures in accordance with [Section 2702](#) of the *International Building Code*. Auxiliary inflation systems shall be provided in temporary air-supported and air-inflated membrane structures in accordance with [Section 3103.10.4](#).

**1203.2.17 Semiconductor fabrication facilities.**

Emergency power shall be provided for semiconductor fabrication facilities as required in [Section 2703.15](#).

**1203.2.18 Smoke control systems.**

Standby power shall be provided for smoke control systems as required in [Section 909.11](#).

**1203.2.19 Underground buildings.**

Emergency and standby power shall be provided in underground buildings as required in [Section 405](#) of the *International Building Code* and shall be in accordance with [Section 1203](#).

**1203.3 Critical circuits.**

Required critical circuits shall be protected using one of the following methods:

1. Cables used for survivability of required critical circuits shall be *listed* in accordance with [UL 2196](#) and shall have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 hour.
2. Electrical circuit protective systems shall have a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 hour. Electrical circuit protective systems shall be installed in accordance with their listing requirements.
3. Construction having a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 1 hour.

**1203.4 Maintenance.**

Emergency and standby power systems shall be maintained in accordance with [NFPA 110](#) and [NFPA 111](#) such that the system is capable of supplying service within the time specified for the type and duration required.

**1203.4.1 Group I-2 and ambulatory care facilities.**

In Group I-2 occupancies and ambulatory care facilities, emergency and standby power systems shall be maintained in accordance with [NFPA 99](#).

**1203.4.2 Schedule.**

Inspection, testing and maintenance of emergency and standby power systems shall be in accordance with an *approved* schedule established upon completion and approval of the system installation.

**1203.4.3 Records.**

Records of the inspection, testing and maintenance of emergency and standby power systems shall include the date of service, name of the servicing technician, a summary of conditions noted and a detailed description of any conditions requiring correction and what corrective action was taken. Such records shall be maintained.

**1203.4.4 Switch maintenance.**

Emergency and standby power system transfer switches shall be included in the inspection, testing and maintenance schedule required by [Section 1203.4.2](#). Transfer switches shall be maintained free from accumulated dust and dirt. Inspection shall include examination of the transfer switch contacts for evidence of deterioration. When evidence of contact deterioration is detected, the contacts shall be replaced in accordance with the transfer switch manufacturer's instructions.

**1203.5 Operational inspection and testing.**

Emergency power systems, including all appurtenant components, shall be inspected and tested under load in accordance with [NFPA 110](#) and [NFPA 111](#).

**Exception:** Where the emergency power system is used for standby power or peak load shaving, such use shall be recorded and shall be allowed to be substituted for scheduled testing of the generator set, provided that appropriate records are maintained.

**1203.5.1 Group I-2 and ambulatory care facilities.**

In Group I-2 occupancies and ambulatory care facilities, emergency and standby power systems shall be inspected and tested under load in accordance with [NFPA 99](#).

**1203.5.2 Transfer switch test.**

The test of the transfer switch shall consist of electrically operating the transfer switch from the normal position to the alternate position and then return to the normal position.

**1203.6 Supervision of maintenance and testing.**

Routine maintenance, inspection and operational testing shall be overseen by a properly instructed individual.

## **SECTION 1204 PORTABLE GENERATORS**

### **1204.1 Portable generators.**

The use, operation and maintenance of portable generators shall comply with this section.

### **1204.2 Listing.**

Portable generators manufactured after January 1, 2021, shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [UL 2201](#).

### **1204.3 Operation and maintenance.**

Portable generators shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### **1204.4 Grounding.**

Portable generators shall be grounded in accordance with [NFPA 70](#).

### **1204.5 Operating locations.**

Portable generators shall be operated only outdoors a minimum of 5 feet (1524 mm) from any building openings such as windows and doors or air intakes. Portable generators shall not be operated within buildings or enclosed areas. Additional separation shall be provided for tents, membrane structures and outdoor assembly events as specified in [Chapter 31](#).

### **1204.6 Cords and wiring.**

Extension cords and temporary wiring used to connect portable generators shall be in accordance with [Section 603](#) and shall be provided with GFCI protection.

### **1204.7 Connections to premise wiring.**

Connections to a premise wiring system shall comply with all of the following:

1. Power shall not be provided in a manner that "back feeds" receptacles or the premise wiring system.
2. Connection to a premise served by commercial power shall be made through a *listed* transfer switch installed, used and maintained in accordance with [NFPA 70](#).
3. Connection to buildings not served by commercial power shall comply with [NFPA 70](#).

### **1204.8 Refueling.**

Portable generators shall not be refueled while operating.

### **1204.9 Storage and repair.**

Storage and repair of fuel-fired portable generators shall comply with [Section 313](#).

### **1204.10 Fire extinguisher.**

A *listed* portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum rating of 2-A:20-B:C shall be provided not more than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from the portable generator.

## **SECTION 1205 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS**

### **1205.1 General.**

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems shall be installed in accordance with the [International Building Code](#) or [International Residential Code](#). The electrical portion of solar PV systems shall be installed in accordance with [NFPA 70](#). Rooftop-mounted solar photovoltaic systems shall be installed in accordance with [Sections 1205.2](#) through [1205.4.3](#). Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems shall comply with [Section 1205.5](#).

### **1205.2 Access and pathways.**

Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements shall be provided in accordance with [Sections 1205.2.1](#) through [1205.3.3](#). Pathways shall be over areas capable of supporting fire fighters accessing the roof. Pathways shall be located in areas with minimal obstructions, such as vent pipes, conduit or mechanical equipment.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Detached, non habitable Group U structures including, but not limited to, detached garages serving Group R-3 buildings, parking shade structures, carports, solar trellises and similar structures.
2. Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements need not be provided where the *fire code official* has determined that rooftop operations will not be employed.
3. Building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems where the BIPV systems are *approved*, integrated into the finished roof surface and are *listed* in accordance with a national test standard developed to address



Section 690.12(B)(2) of [NFPA 70](#). The removal or cutting away of portions of the BIPV system during fire-fighting operations shall not expose a fire fighter to electrical shock hazards.

#### **1205.2.1 Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for Group R-3 buildings.**

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for Group R-3 buildings shall comply with [Sections 1205.2.1.1](#) through [1205.2.3](#).

##### **Exceptions:**

1. These requirements shall not apply to structures designed and constructed in accordance with the [International Residential Code](#).
2. These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.7-percent slope) or less.

##### **1205.2.1.1 Pathways to ridge.**

Not fewer than two 36-inch-wide (914 mm) pathways on separate roof planes, from lowest roof edge to ridge, shall be provided on all buildings. Not fewer than one pathway shall be provided on the street or driveway side of the roof. For each roof plane with a photovoltaic array, not fewer than one 36-inch-wide (914 mm) pathway from lowest roof edge to ridge shall be provided on the same roof plane as the photovoltaic array, on an adjacent roof plane or straddling the same and adjacent roof planes.

##### **1205.2.1.2 Setbacks at ridge.**

For photovoltaic arrays occupying 33 percent or less of the plan view total roof area, a setback of not less than 18 inches (457 mm) wide is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge. For photovoltaic arrays occupying more than 33 percent of the plan view total roof area, a setback of not less than 36 inches (457 mm) wide is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.

##### **1205.2.1.3 Alternative setbacks at ridge.**

Where an *automatic sprinkler system* is installed within the dwelling in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.3](#), setbacks at the ridge shall conform to one of the following:

1. For photovoltaic arrays occupying 66 percent or less of the plan view total roof area, a setback of not less than 18 inches (457 mm) wide is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.
2. For photovoltaic arrays occupying more than 66 percent of the plan view total roof area, a setback of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) wide is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.

##### **1205.2.2 Emergency escape and rescue openings.**

Panels and modules installed on Group R-3 buildings shall not be placed on the portion of a roof that is below an emergency escape and rescue opening. A pathway of not less than 36 inches (914 mm) wide shall be provided to the emergency escape and rescue opening.

##### **1205.2.3 Building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems.**

Where building-integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems are installed in a manner that creates areas with electrical hazards to be hidden from view, markings shall be provided to identify the hazardous areas to avoid. The markings shall be reflective and be visible from grade.

**Exception:** BIPV systems *listed* in accordance with Section 690.12(B)(2) of [NFPA 70](#), where the removal or cutting away of portions of the BIPV system during fire-fighting operations have been determined to not expose a fire fighter to electrical shock hazards.

#### **1205.3 Other than Group R-3 buildings.**

Access to systems for buildings, other than those containing Group R-3 occupancies, shall be provided in accordance with [Sections 1205.3.1](#) through [1205.3.3](#).

**Exception:** Where it is determined by the *fire code official* that the roof configuration is similar to that of a Group R-3 occupancy, the residential access and ventilation requirements in [Sections 1205.2.1.1](#) through [1205.2.1.3](#) are a suitable alternative.

##### **1205.3.1 Perimeter pathways.**

There shall be a minimum 6-foot-wide (1829 mm) clear perimeter around the edges of the roof.

**Exception:** Where either axis of the building is 250 feet (76 200 mm) or less, the clear perimeter around the edges of the roof shall be permitted to be reduced to a minimum width of 4 feet (1219 mm).

##### **1205.3.2 Interior pathways.**

Interior pathways shall be provided between array sections to meet the following requirements:

1. Pathways shall be provided at intervals not greater than 150 feet (45 720 mm) throughout the length and width of the roof.
2. A pathway not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) wide in a straight line to roof standpipes or ventilation hatches.
3. A pathway not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) wide around roof access hatches, with not fewer than one such pathway to a parapet or roof edge.

#### **1205.3.3 Smoke ventilation.**

The solar installation shall be designed to meet the following requirements:

1. Where non gravity-operated smoke and heat vents occur, a pathway not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) wide shall be provided bordering all sides.
2. Where gravity-operated dropout smoke and heat vents occur, a pathway not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) wide on not fewer than one side.
3. Smoke ventilation options between array sections shall be one of the following:
  - 3.1 A pathway not less than 8 feet (2438 mm) wide.
  - 3.2 A pathway not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) wide bordering 4-foot by 8-foot (1219 mm by 2438 mm) venting cutouts every 20 feet (6096 mm) on alternating sides of the pathway.

#### **1205.4 Buildings with rapid shutdown.**

Buildings with rapid shutdown solar photovoltaic systems shall have permanent labels in accordance with [Sections 1205.4.1](#) through [1205.4.3](#).

##### **1205.4.1 Rapid shutdown type.**

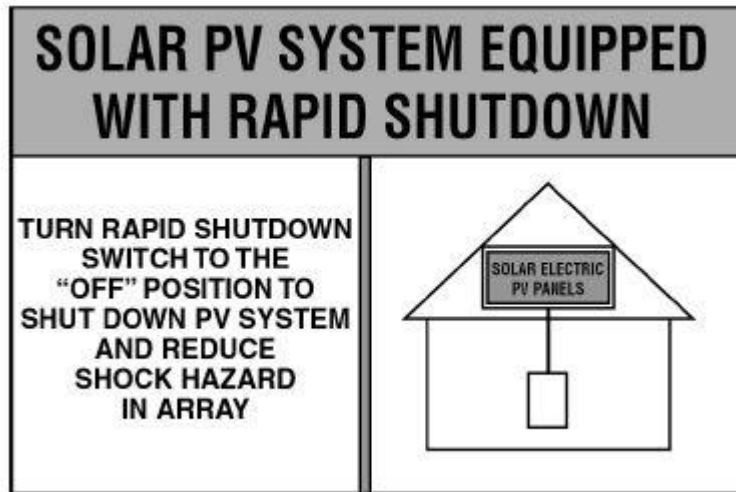
The type of solar photovoltaic system rapid shutdown shall be labeled with one of the following:

1. For solar photovoltaic systems that shut down the array and the conductors leaving the array, a label shall be provided. The first two lines of the label shall be uppercase characters with a minimum height of  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (10 mm) in black on a yellow background. The remaining characters shall be uppercase with a minimum height of  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (5 mm) in black on a white background. The label shall be in accordance with [Figure 1205.4.1\(1\)](#) and state the following:

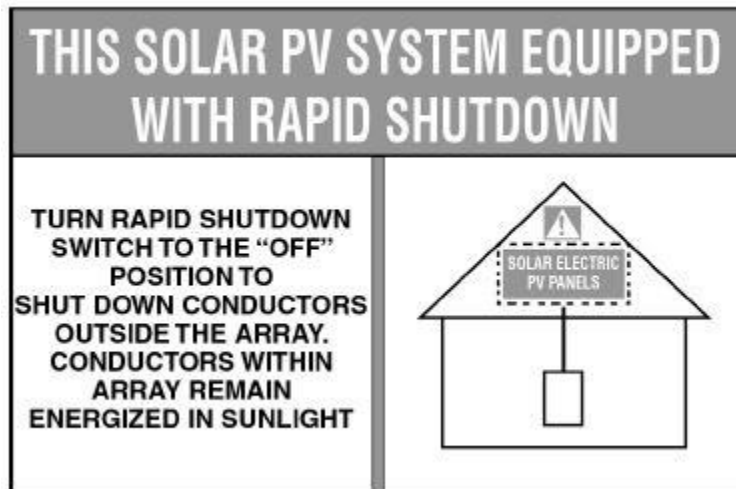
**THIS SOLAR PV SYSTEM EQUIPPED WITH  
RAPID SHUTDOWN. TURN RAPID  
SHUTDOWN SWITCH TO THE “OFF”  
POSITION TO SHUT DOWN PV SYSTEM  
AND REDUCE SHOCK HAZARD IN ARRAY.**

2. For photovoltaic systems that only shut down conductors leaving the array, a label shall be provided. The first two lines of the label shall be uppercase characters with a minimum height of  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (10 mm) in white on a red background and the remaining characters shall be capitalized with a minimum height of  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (5 mm) in black on a white background. The label shall be in accordance with [Figure 1205.4.1\(2\)](#) and state the following:

**THIS SOLAR PV SYSTEM EQUIPPED  
WITH RAPID SHUTDOWN. TURN RAPID  
SHUTDOWN SWITCH TO THE “OFF”  
POSITION TO SHUT DOWN CONDUCTORS  
OUTSIDE THE ARRAY. CONDUCTORS  
WITHIN ARRAY REMAIN ENERGIZED  
IN SUNLIGHT.**



**FIGURE 1205.4.1(1)**  
**LABEL FOR SOLAR PV SYSTEMS THAT REDUCE SHOCK HAZARD WITHIN ARRAY AND SHUT DOWN CONDUCTORS LEAVING ARRAY**



**FIGURE 1205.4.1(2)**  
**LABEL FOR SOLAR PV SYSTEMS THAT ONLY SHUT DOWN CONDUCTORS LEAVING THE ARRAY**

#### **1205.4.1.1 Diagram.**

The labels in [Section 1205.4.1](#) shall include a simple diagram of a building with a roof. Diagram sections in red signify sections of the solar photovoltaic system that are not shut down when the rapid shutdown switch is turned off.

#### **1205.4.1.2 Location.**

The rapid shutdown label in [Section 1205.4.1](#) shall be located not greater than 3 feet (914 mm) from the service disconnecting means to which the photovoltaic systems are connected, and shall indicate the location of all identified rapid shutdown switches if not at the same location.

#### **1205.4.2 Buildings with more than one rapid shutdown type.**

Solar photovoltaic systems that contain rapid shutdown in accordance with both Items 1 and 2 of [Section 1205.4.1](#) or solar photovoltaic systems where only portions of the systems on the building contain rapid shutdown, shall provide a detailed plan view diagram of the roof showing each different photovoltaic system and a dotted line around areas that remain energized after the rapid shutdown switch is operated.

#### **1205.4.3 Rapid shutdown switch.**

A rapid shutdown switch shall have a label located not greater than 3 feet (914 mm) from the switch that states the following:

#### **RAPID SHUTDOWN SWITCH FOR SOLAR PV SYSTEM**

#### **1205.5 Ground-mounted photovoltaic panel systems.**

Ground-mounted photovoltaic panel systems shall be installed in accordance with this section. Setback requirements shall not apply to ground-mounted, free-standing photovoltaic arrays.

##### **1205.5.1 Vegetation control.**

A clear, brush-free area of 10 feet (3048 mm) shall be required around the perimeter of the ground-mounted photovoltaic arrays. A maintained vegetative surface or a noncombustible base, *approved* by the *fire code official*, shall be installed and maintained under the photovoltaic arrays and associated electrical equipment installations.

### **SECTION 1206 STATIONARY FUEL CELL POWER SYSTEMS**

#### **1206.1 General.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* in new and existing occupancies shall comply with this section.

**Exception:** The temporary use of a fuel cell-powered electric vehicle to power a Group R-3 or R-4 building while parked shall comply with [Section 1206.14](#).

#### **1206.2 Permits.**

Permits shall be obtained for *stationary fuel cell power systems* as set forth in [Section 105.6.9](#).

#### **1206.3 Equipment.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* shall comply with the following:

1. *Prepackaged fuel cell power systems* shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [CSA FC 1](#).
2. The modules and components in a *pre-engineered fuel cell power system* shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [CSA FC 1](#) and interconnected to complete the assembly of the system at the job site in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the module and component listings.
3. *Field-fabricated fuel cell power systems* shall be approved based on a review of the technical report provided in accordance with [Section 104.8.2](#). The report shall be prepared by and bear the stamp of a *registered design professional* and shall include:
  - 3.1. A fire risk evaluation.
  - 3.2. An evaluation demonstrating that modules and components in the fuel cell power system comply with applicable requirements in [CSA FC 1](#).
  - 3.3. Documentation of the fuel cell power system's compliance with applicable [NFPA 2](#) and [NFPA 853](#) construction requirements.

#### **1206.4 Installation.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* shall be installed and maintained in accordance with [NFPA 70](#) and [NFPA 853](#), the manufacturer's installation instructions, and the listing. *Stationary fuel cell power systems* fueled by hydrogen shall be installed and maintained in accordance with [NFPA 2](#) and [NFPA 70](#), the manufacturer's installation instructions and the listing.

#### **1206.5 Residential use.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* shall not be installed in Group R-3 and R-4 buildings, or *dwelling units* associated with Group R-2 buildings unless they are specifically *listed* for residential use.

**Exception:** The temporary use of a fuel cell-powered electric vehicle to power a Group R-3 or R-4 building while parked shall comply with [Section 1206.14](#).

#### **1206.6 Indoor installations.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* installed in indoor locations shall comply with [Sections 1206.6](#) through [1206.6.2](#). For purposes of this section, an indoor location includes a roof and 50 percent or greater enclosing walls.

**1206.6.1 Listed.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* installed indoors shall be specifically *listed* and *labeled* for indoor use.

**1206.6.2 Separation.**

Rooms containing *stationary fuel cell power systems* shall be separated from the following occupancies by *fire barriers* or *horizontal assemblies*, or both, constructed in accordance with the [International Building Code](#).

1. Group B, F, M, S and U occupancies by 1-hour *fire-resistance-rated* construction.
2. Group A, E, I and R occupancies by 2-hour *fire-resistance-rated* construction.

**Exception:** *Stationary fuel cell power systems* with an aggregate rating less than 50 kW shall not be required to be separated from other occupancies provided that the systems comply with Section 9.3 of [NFPA 853](#).

**1206.7 Vehicle impact protection.**

Where *stationary fuel cell power systems* are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, vehicle impact protection shall be provided in accordance with [Section 312](#).

**1206.8 Outdoor installation.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* located outdoors shall be separated by not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from the following:

1. Lot lines.
2. Public ways.
3. Buildings.
4. Stored combustible materials.
5. Hazardous materials.
6. High-piled stock.
7. Any portion of a designated means of egress system.
8. Other exposure hazards.

**1206.9 Fuel supply.**

The design, location and installation of the fuel supply for *stationary fuel cell power systems* shall comply with [Chapter 53](#), [Chapter 58](#) and the [International Fuel Gas Code](#), based on the particular fuel being supplied to the system.

**1206.10 Manual shutoff.**

Access to a manual shutoff valve shall be provided for the fuel piping within 6 feet (1829 mm) of any fuel storage tank serving the fuel cell and within 6 feet (1829 mm) of the power system. If the fuel tank and the *stationary fuel cell power system* are less than 12 feet (3658 mm) apart, a single shutoff valve shall be permitted. If the *stationary fuel cell power system* is located indoors, the shutoff valve shall be located outside of the room in which the system is installed, unless otherwise *approved* by the *fire code official*.

**1206.11 Ventilation and exhaust.**

Ventilation and exhaust for stationary fuel cell power systems shall be provided in accordance with [NFPA 853](#).

**1206.12 Fire protection.**

Fire protection systems for stationary fuel cell power system installations shall be provided in accordance with [NFPA 853](#).

**1206.13 Gas detection systems.**

*Stationary fuel cell power systems* shall be provided with a gas detection system. Detection shall be provided in *approved* locations in the fuel cell power system enclosure, the exhaust system or the room that encloses the fuel cell power system. The system shall be designed to activate at a flammable gas concentration of not more than 25 percent of the lower flammable limit (LFL).

**1206.13.1 System activation.**

The activation of the gas detection system shall automatically

1. Close valves between the gas supply and the fuel cell power system.
2. Shut down the fuel cell power system.
3. Initiate local audible and visible alarms in *approved* locations.

**1206.14 Group R-3 and R-4 fuel cell vehicle energy storage system use.**

The temporary use of the *dwelling unit owner* or occupant's fuel cell-powered electric vehicle to power a Group R-3 or R-4 dwelling while parked in an attached or detached garage or outside shall comply with the vehicle manufacturer's instructions and [NFPA 70](#).

**SECTION 1207 ELECTRICAL ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (ESS)****1207.1 General.**

The provisions in this section are applicable to stationary and mobile electrical energy storage systems (ESS).

**Exception:**

ESS in Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies shall comply with [Section 1207.11](#).

**1207.1.1 Scope.**

ESS having capacities exceeding the values shown in [Table 1207.1.1](#) shall comply with this section.

**TABLE 1207.1.1****ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (ESS) THRESHOLD QUANTITIES**

TECHNOLOGY	ENERGY CAPACITY <sup>a</sup>
Capacitor ESS	3 kWh
Flow batteries <sup>b</sup>	20 kWh
Lead-acid batteries, all types <sup>c</sup>	70 kWh
Lithium-ion batteries	20 kWh
Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)	70 kWh
Nickel-cadmium batteries (Ni-Cd)	70 kWh
Other battery technologies	10 kWh
Other electrochemical ESS technologies	3 kWh

For SI: 1 kilowatt hour = 3.6 megajoules.

1a. Energy capacity is the total energy capable of being stored (nameplate rating), not the usable energy rating. For units rated in amp-hours, kWh shall equal rated voltage times amp-hour rating divided by 1,000.

2b. Shall include vanadium, zinc-bromine, polysulfide-bromide and other flowing electrolyte-type technologies.

3c. Fifty gallons of lead-acid battery electrolyte shall be considered equivalent to 70 kWh.

**1207.1.2 Permits.**

Permits shall be obtained for ESS as follows:

1. Construction permits shall be obtained for stationary ESS installations and for mobile ESS charging and storage installations covered by [Section 1207.10.1](#). Permits shall be obtained in accordance with [Section 105.6.5](#).

2. Operational permits shall be obtained for stationary ESS installations and for mobile ESS deployment operations covered by [Section 1207.10.3](#). Permits shall be obtained in accordance with [Section 105.5.14](#).

**1207.1.2.1 Communication utilities**

Operational permits shall not be required for lead-acid and nickel cadmium battery systems at facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities that comply with [NFPA 76](#) and operate at less than 50 voltage alternating current (VAC) and 60 voltage direct current (VDC).

**1207.1.3 Construction documents.**

The following information shall be provided with the permit application:

1. Location and layout diagram of the room or area in which the ESS is to be installed.
2. Details on the hourly *fire-resistance ratings* of assemblies enclosing the ESS.



3. The quantities and types of ESS to be installed.
4. Manufacturer's specifications, ratings and listings of each ESS.
5. Description of energy (battery) management systems and their operation.
6. Location and content of required signage.
7. Details on fire suppression, smoke or fire detection, thermal management, ventilation, exhaust and *deflagration* venting systems, if provided.
8. Support arrangement associated with the installation, including any required seismic restraint.
9. A commissioning plan complying with [Section 1207.2.1](#).
10. A decommissioning plan complying with [Section 1207.2.3](#).

#### **1207.1.4 Hazard mitigation analysis.**

A failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA) or other *approved* hazard mitigation analysis shall be provided in accordance with [Section 104.8.2](#) under any of the following conditions:

1. Where ESS technologies not specifically identified in Table 1207.1 are provided.
2. More than one ESS technology is provided in a room or enclosed area where there is a potential for adverse interaction between technologies.
3. Where allowed as a basis for increasing maximum allowable quantities. See [Section 1207.5.2](#).

##### **1207.1.4.1 Fault condition.**

The hazard mitigation analysis shall evaluate the consequences of the following failure modes. Only single failure modes shall be considered.

1. A thermal runaway condition in a single ESS rack, module or unit.
2. Failure of any battery (energy) management system.
3. Failure of any required ventilation or exhaust system.
4. Voltage surges on the primary electric supply.
5. Short circuits on the load side of the ESS.
6. Failure of the smoke detection, fire detection, fire suppression or gas detection system.
7. Required spill neutralization not being provided or failure of a required secondary containment system.

##### **1207.1.4.2 Analysis approval.**

The *fire code official* is authorized to approve the hazardous mitigation analysis provided that the consequences of the hazard mitigation analysis demonstrate:

1. Fires will be contained within unoccupied ESS rooms or areas for the minimum duration of the fire-resistance-rated separations identified in [Section 1207.7.4](#).
2. Fires in occupied work centers will be detected in time to allow occupants within the room or area to safely evacuate.
3. Toxic and highly toxic gases released during fires will not reach concentrations in excess of the IDLH level in the building or adjacent *means of egress* routes during the time deemed necessary to evacuate occupants from any affected area.
4. Flammable gases released from ESS during charging, discharging and normal operation will not exceed 25 percent of their lower flammability limit (LFL).
5. Flammable gases released from ESS during fire, overcharging and other abnormal conditions will be controlled through the use of ventilation of the gases, preventing accumulation, or by *deflagration* venting.

##### **1207.1.4.3 Additional protection measures.**

Construction, equipment and systems that are required for the ESS to comply with the hazardous mitigation analysis, including but not limited to those specifically described in [Section 1207](#), shall be installed, maintained and tested in accordance with nationally recognized standards and specified design parameters.

##### **1207.1.5 Large-scale fire test.**

Where required elsewhere in [Section 1207](#), large-scale fire testing shall be conducted on a representative ESS in accordance with [UL 9540A](#). The testing shall be conducted or witnessed and reported by an *approved* testing laboratory and show that a fire involving one ESS will not propagate to an adjacent ESS, and where installed within buildings, enclosed areas and walk-in units will be contained within the

room, enclosed area or walk-in unit for a duration equal to the *fire-resistance rating* of the room separation specified in [Section 1207.7.4](#). The test report shall be provided to the *fire code official* for review and approval in accordance with [Section 104.8.2](#).

#### **1207.1.6 Fire remediation.**

Where a fire or other event has damaged the ESS and ignition or re-ignition of the ESS is possible, the system *owner*, agent or lessee shall take the following actions, at their expense, to mitigate the hazard or remove damaged equipment from the premises to a safe location.

##### **1207.1.6.1 Fire mitigation personnel.**

Where, in the opinion of the *fire code official*, it is essential for public safety that trained personnel be on-site to respond to possible ignition or re-ignition of a damaged ESS, the system owner, agent or lessee shall immediately dispatch one or more fire mitigation personnel to the premise, as required and approved, at their expense. These personnel shall remain on duty continuously after the fire department leaves the premise until the damaged energy storage equipment is removed from the premises, or earlier if the *fire code official* indicates the public safety hazard has been abated.

##### **1207.1.6.2 Duties.**

On-duty fire mitigation personnel shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Keep a diligent watch for fires, obstructions to *means of egress* and other hazards.
2. Immediately contact the fire department if their assistance is needed to mitigate any hazards or extinguish fires.
3. Take prompt measures for remediation of hazards in accordance with the decommissioning plan per [Section 1207.2.3](#).
4. Take prompt measures to assist in the evacuation of the public from the structures.

#### **1207.2 Commissioning, decommissioning, operation and maintenance.**

Commissioning, decommissioning, operation and maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with this section.

##### **1207.2.1 Commissioning.**

Commissioning of newly installed ESS and existing ESS that have been retrofitted, replaced or previously decommissioned and are returning to service shall be conducted prior to the ESS being placed in service in accordance with a commissioning plan that has been *approved* prior to initiating commissioning. The commissioning plan shall include the following:

1. A narrative description of the activities that will be accomplished during each phase of commissioning, including the personnel intended to accomplish each of the activities.
2. A listing of the specific ESS and associated components, controls and safety-related devices to be tested, a description of the tests to be performed and the functions to be tested.
3. Conditions under which all testing will be performed, which are representative of the conditions during normal operation of the system.
4. Documentation of the owner's project requirements and the basis of design necessary to understand the installation and operation of the ESS.
5. Verification that required equipment and systems are installed in accordance with the *approved* plans and specifications.
6. Integrated testing for all fire and safety systems.
7. Testing for any required thermal management, ventilation or exhaust systems associated with the ESS installation.
8. Preparation and delivery of operation and maintenance documentation.
9. Training of facility operating and maintenance staff.
10. Identification and documentation of the requirements for maintaining system performance to meet the original design intent during the operation phase.
11. Identification and documentation of personnel who are qualified to service, maintain and decommission the ESS, and respond to incidents involving the ESS, including documentation that such service has been contracted for.



12. A decommissioning plan for removing the ESS from service, and from the facility in which it is located. The plan shall include details on providing a safe, orderly shutdown of energy storage and safety systems with notification to the code officials prior to the actual decommissioning of the system. The decommissioning plan shall include contingencies for removing an intact operational ESS from service, and for removing an ESS from service that has been damaged by a fire or other event.

**Exception:** Commissioning shall not be required for lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems at facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities that comply with [NFPA 76](#) and operate at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC. A decommissioning plan shall be provided and maintained where required by the *fire code official*.

#### **1207.2.1.1 Initial acceptance testing.**

During the commissioning process an ESS shall be evaluated for proper operation in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the commissioning plan prior to final approval.

#### **1207.2.1.2 Commissioning report.**

A report describing the results of the system commissioning, including the results of the initial acceptance testing required in [Section 1207.2.1.1](#), shall be provided to the *fire code official* prior to final inspection and approval and maintained at an *approved* on-site location.

#### **1207.2.2 Operation and maintenance.**

An operation and maintenance manual shall be provided to both the ESS *owner* or their authorized agent and the ESS operator before the ESS is put into operation and shall include the following:

1. Manufacturer's operation manuals and maintenance manuals for the entire ESS, or for each component of the system requiring maintenance, that clearly identify the required routine maintenance actions.
2. Name, address and phone number of a service agency that has been contracted to service the ESS and its associated safety systems.
3. Maintenance and calibration information, including wiring diagrams, control drawings, schematics, system programming instructions and control sequence descriptions, for all energy storage control systems.
4. Desired or field-determined control set points that are permanently recorded on control drawings at control devices or, for digital control systems, in system programming instructions.
5. A schedule for inspecting and recalibrating all ESS controls.
6. A service record log form that lists the schedule for all required servicing and maintenance actions and space for logging such actions that are completed over time and retained on-site.

The ESS shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the manual and a copy of the manual shall be retained at an *approved* on-site location.

##### **1207.2.2.1 Ongoing inspection and testing.**

Systems that monitor and protect the ESS installation shall be inspected and tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the operation and maintenance manual. Inspection and testing records shall be maintained in the operation and maintenance manual.

#### **1207.2.3 Decommissioning.**

The code official shall be notified prior to the decommissioning of an ESS. Decommissioning shall be performed in accordance with the decommissioning plan that includes the following:

1. A narrative description of the activities to be accomplished for removing the ESS from service, and from the facility in which it is located.
2. A listing of any contingencies for removing an intact operational ESS from service, and for removing an ESS from service that has been damaged by a fire or other event.

#### **1207.3 Equipment.**

ESS equipment shall be in accordance with [Sections 1207.3.1 through 1207.3.9](#).

##### **1207.3.1 Energy storage system listings.**

ESS shall be *listed* in accordance with [UL 9540](#).

**Exception:** Lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems installed in facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities, and operating at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC in accordance with [NFPA 76](#), are not required to be *listed*.

##### **1207.3.2 Equipment listing.**

Chargers, inverters and energy storage management systems shall be covered as part of the [UL 9540](#) listing or shall be *listed* separately.

#### **1207.3.3 Utility interactive systems.**

Inverters shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [UL 1741](#). Only inverters *listed* and *labeled* for utility interactive system use and identified as interactive shall be allowed to operate in parallel with the electric utility power system to supply power to common loads.

#### **1207.3.4 Energy storage management system.**

Where required by the ESS listing, an *approved* energy storage management system that monitors and balances cell voltages, currents and temperatures within the manufacturer's specifications shall be provided. The system shall disconnect electrical connections to the ESS or otherwise place it in a safe condition if potentially hazardous temperatures or other conditions such as short circuits, over voltage or under voltage are detected.

#### **1207.3.5 Enclosures.**

Enclosures of ESS shall be of noncombustible construction.

#### **1207.3.6 Repairs.**

Repairs of ESS shall only be done by qualified personnel. Repairs with other than identical parts shall be considered retrofitting and comply with [Section 1207.3.7](#). Repairs shall be documented in the service records log.

#### **1207.3.7 Retrofits.**

Retrofitting of an existing ESS shall comply with the following:

1. A construction permit shall be obtained in accordance with [Section 105.6.5](#).
2. New batteries, battery modules, capacitors and similar ESS components shall be *listed*.
3. Battery management and other monitoring systems shall be connected and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
4. The overall installation shall continue to comply with [UL 9540](#) listing requirements, where applicable.
5. Systems that have been retrofitted shall be commissioned in accordance with [Section 1207.2.1](#).
6. Retrofits shall be documented in the service records log.

##### **1207.3.7.1 Retrofitting lead acid and nickel cadmium.**

[Section 1207.3.7](#) shall not apply to retrofitting of lead-acid and nickel-cadmium batteries with other lead-acid and nickel-cadmium batteries at facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities that comply with [NFPA 76](#) and operate at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC.

#### **1207.3.8 Replacements.**

Replacements of ESS shall be considered new ESS installations and shall comply with the provisions of [Section 1207](#) as applicable to new ESS. The ESS being replaced shall be decommissioned in accordance with [Section 1207.2.3](#).

#### **1207.3.9 Reused and repurposed equipment.**

Equipment and materials shall only be reused or reinstalled as permitted in [Section 104.8.1](#). Storage batteries previously used in other applications, such as electric vehicle propulsion, shall not be reused in applications regulated by [Chapter 12](#) unless *approved* by the *fire code official* and unless the equipment is refurbished by a battery refurbishing company *approved* in accordance with [UL 1974](#).

#### **1207.4 General installations requirements.**

Stationary and mobile ESS shall comply with the requirements of [Sections 1207.4.1](#) through [1207.4.12](#).

##### **1207.4.1 Electrical disconnects.**

Where the ESS disconnecting means is not within sight of the main electrical service disconnecting means, placards or directories shall be installed at the location of the main electrical service disconnecting means indicating the location of stationary storage battery system disconnecting means in accordance with [NFPA 70](#).

**Exception:** Electrical disconnects for lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems at facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities and operating at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC shall be permitted to have electrical disconnects signage in accordance with [NFPA 76](#).

##### **1207.4.2 Working clearances.**

Access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electrical equipment to permit ready and safe operation and maintenance of such equipment in accordance with [NFPA 70](#) and the manufacturer's instructions.

#### **1207.4.3 Fire-resistance-rated separations.**

Rooms and other indoor areas containing ESS shall be separated from other areas of the building in accordance with [Section 1207.7.4](#). ESS shall be permitted to be in the same room with the equipment they support.

#### **1207.4.4 Seismic and structural design.**

Stationary ESS shall comply with the seismic design requirements in [Chapter 16](#) of the *International Building Code*, and shall not exceed the floor loading limitation of the building.

#### **1207.4.5 Vehicle impact protection.**

Where ESS are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, including fork lifts, vehicle impact protection shall be provided in accordance with [Section 312](#).

#### **1207.4.6 Combustible storage.**

Combustible materials shall not be stored in ESS rooms, areas or walk-in units. Combustible materials in occupied work centers covered by [Section 1207.4.10](#) shall be stored at least 3 feet (914 mm) from ESS cabinets.

#### **1207.4.7 Toxic and highly toxic gases.**

ESS that have the potential to release toxic and highly toxic gas during charging, discharging and normal use conditions shall be provided with a hazardous exhaust system in accordance with [Section 502.8](#) of the *International Mechanical Code*.

#### **1207.4.8 Signage.**

*Approved* signs shall be provided on or adjacent to all entry doors for ESS rooms or areas and on enclosures of ESS cabinets and walk-in units located outdoors, on rooftops or in open parking garages. Signs designed to meet both the requirements of this section and [NFPA 70](#) shall be permitted. The signage shall include the following or equivalent:

1. "ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM," "BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM," "CAPACITOR ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM" or the equivalent.
2. The identification of the electrochemical ESS technology present.
3. "ENERGIZED ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS."
4. Where water-reactive electrochemical ESS are present, the signage shall include "APPLY NO WATER."
5. Current contact information, including phone number, for personnel authorized to service the equipment and for fire mitigation personnel required by [Section 1207.1.6.1](#).

**Exception:** Existing electrochemical ESS shall be permitted to include the signage required at the time they were installed.

#### **1207.4.9 Security of installations.**

Rooms, areas and walk-in units in which electrochemical ESS are located shall be secured against unauthorized entry and safeguarded in an *approved* manner. Security barriers, fences, landscaping and other enclosures shall not inhibit the required air flow to or exhaust from the electrochemical ESS and its components.

#### **1207.4.10 Occupied work centers.**

Electrochemical ESS located in rooms or areas occupied by personnel not directly involved with maintenance, service and testing of the systems shall comply with the following:

1. Electrochemical ESS located in occupied work centers shall be housed in locked noncombustible cabinets or other enclosures to prevent access by unauthorized personnel.
2. Where electrochemical ESS are contained in cabinets in occupied work centers, the cabinets shall be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the equipment that they support.
3. Cabinets shall include signage complying with [Section 1207.4.8](#).

#### **1207.4.11 Open rack installations.**

Where electrochemical ESS are installed in a separate equipment room and only authorized personnel have access to the room, they shall be permitted to be installed on an open rack for ease of maintenance.

#### 1207.4.12 Walk-in units.

Walk-in units shall be entered only for inspection, maintenance and repair of ESS units and ancillary equipment, and shall not be occupied for other purposes.

#### 1207.5 Electrochemical ESS protection.

The protection of electrochemical ESS shall be in accordance with [Sections 1207.5.1 through 1207.5.8](#) where required by [Sections 1207.7 through 1207.10](#).

**TABLE 1207.5**

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITIES OF ELECTROCHEMICAL ESS**

TECHNOLOGY	MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE QUANTITIES <sup>a</sup>
<b>STORAGE BATTERIES</b>	
Flow batteries <sup>b</sup>	600 kWh
Lead-acid, all types	Unlimited
Lithium-ion	600 kWh
Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)	Unlimited
Nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd)	Unlimited
Other battery technologies	200 kWh
<b>CAPACITORS</b>	
All types	20 kWh
<b>OTHER ELECTROCHEMICAL ESS</b>	
All types	20 kWh

For SI: 1 kilowatt hour = 3.6 megajoules.

a. For electrochemical ESS units rated in amp-hours, kWh shall equal rated voltage times the amp-hour rating divided by 1,000.

b. Shall include vanadium, zinc-bromine, polysulfide-bromide and other flowing electrolyte-type technologies.

#### 1207.5.1 Size and separation.

Electrochemical ESS shall be segregated into groups not exceeding 50 kWh (180 megajoules). Each group shall be separated a minimum of 3 feet (914 mm) from other groups and from walls in the storage room or area. The storage arrangements shall comply with [Chapter 10](#).

1. Lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems in facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities and operating at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC in accordance with [NFPA 76](#).
2. The *fire code official* is authorized to approve larger capacities or smaller separation distances based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).

#### 1207.5.2 Maximum allowable quantities.

*Fire areas* within rooms, areas and walk-in units containing electrochemical ESS shall not exceed the maximum allowable quantities in [Table 1207.5](#).

##### Exceptions:

1. Where approved by the fire code official, rooms, areas and walk-in units containing electrochemical ESS that exceed the amounts in [Table 1207.5](#) shall be permitted based on a hazardous mitigation analysis in accordance with [Section 1207.1.4](#) and large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).
2. Lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems installed in facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities, and operating at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC in accordance with [NFPA 76](#).
3. Dedicated-use buildings in compliance with [Section 1207.7.1](#).

#### 1207.5.2.1 Mixed electrochemical energy systems.

Where rooms, areas and walk-in units contain different types of electrochemical energy technologies, the total aggregate quantities of the systems shall be determined based on the sum of percentages of each technology type quantity divided by the maximum allowable quantity of each technology type. The sum of the percentages shall not exceed 100 percent of the maximum allowable quantity.

#### **1207.5.3 Elevation.**

Electrochemical ESS shall not be located in the following areas:

1. Where the floor is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.
2. Where the floor is located below the lowest *level of exit discharge*.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC installed in facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities in accordance with [NFPA 76](#).
2. Where *approved*, installations shall be permitted in underground vaults complying with [NFPA 70](#), Article 450, Part III.
3. Where *approved* by the *fire code official*, installations shall be permitted on higher and lower floors.

#### **1207.5.4 Fire detection.**

An *approved* automatic smoke detection system or radiant energy-sensing fire detection system complying with [Section 907.2](#) shall be installed in rooms, indoor areas and walk-in units containing electrochemical ESS. An *approved* radiant energy-sensing fire detection system shall be installed to protect open parking garage and rooftop installations. Alarm signals from detection systems shall be transmitted to a central station, proprietary or remote station service in accordance with [NFPA 72](#), or where *approved* to a constantly attended location.

##### **1207.5.4.1 System status.**

Where required by the *fire code official*, visible annunciation shall be provided on cabinet exteriors or in other *approved* locations to indicate that potentially hazardous conditions associated with the ESS exist.

#### **1207.5.5 Fire suppression systems.**

Rooms and areas within buildings and walk-in units containing electrochemical ESS shall be protected by an automatic fire suppression system designed and installed in accordance with one of the following:

1. An *automatic sprinkler system* designed and installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) with a minimum density of 0.3 gpm/ft<sup>2</sup> (1.14 L/min) based on the *fire area* or 2,500 square-foot (232 m<sup>2</sup>) design area, whichever is smaller.
2. Where *approved*, an *automatic sprinkler system* designed and installed in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](#) with a sprinkler hazard classification based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).
3. The following alternative automatic fire-extinguishing systems designed and installed in accordance with [Section 904](#), provided that the installation is *approved* by the *fire code official* based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#):
  - 3.1. [NFPA 12](#), *Standard on Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems*.
  - 3.2. [NFPA 15](#), *Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection*.
  - 3.3. [NFPA 750](#), *Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems*.
  - 3.4. [NFPA 2001](#), *Standard on Clean Agent Fire-Extinguishing Systems*.
  - 3.5. [NFPA 2010](#), *Standard for Fixed Aerosol Fire-Extinguishing Systems*.

**Exception:** Fire suppression systems for lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems at facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities that operate at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC shall be provided where required by [NFPA 76](#).

##### **1207.5.5.1 Water-reactive systems.**

Electrochemical ESS that utilize water-reactive materials shall be protected by an *approved* alternative automatic fire extinguishing system in accordance with [Section 904](#), where the installation is *approved* by the *fire code official* based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).

#### **1207.5.6 Maximum enclosure size.**



Outdoor walk-in units housing ESS shall not exceed 53 feet by 8 feet by 9.5 feet high (16 154 mm × 2438 mm × 2896 mm), not including bolt-on HVAC and related equipment, as *approved*. Outdoor walk-in units exceeding these limitations shall be considered indoor installations and comply with the requirements in [Section 1207.7](#).

#### **1207.5.7 Vegetation control.**

Areas within 10 feet (3048 mm) on each side of outdoor ESS shall be cleared of combustible vegetation and other combustible growth. Single specimens of trees, shrubbery or cultivated ground cover such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants used as ground cover shall be permitted to be exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire.

#### **1207.5.8 Means of egress separation.**

ESS located outdoors and in open parking garages shall be separated from any *means of egress* as required by the *fire code official* to ensure safe egress under fire conditions, but in no case less than 10 feet (3048 mm).

**Exception:** The fire code official is authorized to approve a reduced separation distance if large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#) is provided that shows that a fire involving the ESS will not adversely impact occupant egress.

#### **1207.6 Electrochemical ESS technology-specific protection.**

Electrochemical ESS installations shall comply with the requirements of this section in accordance with the applicable requirements of [Table 1207.6](#).

**TABLE 1207.6**

COMPLIANCE REQUIRED <sup>b</sup>		BATTERY TECHNOLOGY				OTHER ESS AND BATTERY TECHNOLOGIES <sup>b</sup>	CAPACITORESS <sup>b</sup>
Feature	Section	Lead-acid	Ni-Cd and Ni-MH	Lithium-ion	Flow		
Exhaust ventilation	<a href="#">1207.6.1</a>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Explosion control	<a href="#">1207.6.3</a>	Yes <sup>a</sup>	Yes <sup>a</sup>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Safety caps	<a href="#">1207.6.4</a>	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Spill control and neutralization	<a href="#">1207.6.2</a>	Yes <sup>c</sup>	Yes <sup>c</sup>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thermal runaway	<a href="#">1207.6.5</a>	Yes <sup>d</sup>	Yes	Yes <sup>e</sup>	No	Yes <sup>e</sup>	Yes

#### **ELECTROCHEMICAL ESS TECHNOLOGY-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

1. a. Not required for lead-acid and nickel-cadmium batteries at facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities that comply with [NFPA 76](#) and operate at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC.
2. b. Protection shall be provided unless documentation acceptable to the fire code official is provided in accordance with [Section 104.8.2](#) that provides justification why the protection is not necessary based on the technology used.
3. c. Applicable to vented-type (i.e., flooded) nickel-cadmium and lead-acid batteries.
4. d. Not required for vented-type (i.e., flooded) lead-acid batteries.
5. e. The thermal runaway protection is permitted to be part of a battery management system that has been evaluated with the battery as part of the evaluation to [UL 1973](#).

### **1207.6.1 Exhaust ventilation.**

Where required by [Table 1207.6](#) or elsewhere in this code, exhaust ventilation of rooms, areas and walk-in units containing electrochemical ESS shall be provided in accordance with the *International Mechanical Code* and [Section 1207.6.1.1](#) or [1207.6.1.2](#).

#### **1207.6.1.1 Ventilation based on LFL.**

The exhaust ventilation system shall be designed to limit the maximum concentration of flammable gas to 25 percent of the lower flammable limit (LFL) of the total volume of the room, area or walk-in unit during the worst-case event of simultaneous charging of batteries at the maximum charge rate, in accordance with nationally recognized standards.

#### **1207.6.1.2 Ventilation based on exhaust rate.**

Mechanical exhaust ventilation shall be provided at a rate of not less than 1 ft<sup>3</sup>/min/ft<sup>2</sup> (5.1 L/sec/m<sup>2</sup>) of floor area of the room, area or walk-in unit. The ventilation shall be either continuous or shall be activated by a gas detection system in accordance with [Section 1207.6.1.2.4](#).

##### **1207.6.1.2.1 Standby power.**

Mechanical exhaust ventilation shall be provided with a minimum of 2 hours of standby power in accordance with [Section 1203.2.5](#).

##### **1207.6.1.2.2 Installation instructions.**

Required mechanical exhaust ventilation systems shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and the *International Mechanical Code*.

##### **1207.6.1.2.3 Supervision.**

Required mechanical exhaust ventilation systems shall be supervised by an *approved* central station, proprietary or remote station service in accordance with [NFPA 72](#), or shall initiate an audible and visible signal at an *approved* constantly attended on-site location.

##### **1207.6.1.2.4 Gas detection system.**

Where required by [Section 1207.6.1.2](#), rooms, areas and walk-in units containing ESS shall be protected by an *approved* continuous gas detection system that complies with [Section 916](#) and with the following:

1. The gas detection system shall be designed to activate the mechanical ventilation system when the level of flammable gas in the room, area or walk-in unit exceeds 25 percent of the LFL.
2. The mechanical ventilation system shall remain on until the flammable gas detected is less than 25 percent of the LFL.
3. The gas detection system shall be provided with a minimum of 2 hours of standby power in accordance with [Section 1203.2.5](#).
4. Failure of the gas detection system shall annunciate a trouble signal at an *approved* central station, proprietary or remote station service in accordance with [NFPA 72](#), or shall initiate an audible and visible trouble signal at an *approved* constantly attended on-site location.

### **1207.6.2 Spill control and neutralization.**

Where required by [Table 1207.6](#) or elsewhere in this code, areas containing free-flowing liquid electrolyte or hazardous materials shall be provided with spill control and neutralization in accordance with this section.

#### **1207.6.2.1 Spill control.**

Spill control shall be provided to prevent the flow of liquid electrolyte or hazardous materials to adjoining rooms or areas. The method shall be capable of containing a spill from the single largest battery or vessel.

#### **1207.6.2.2 Neutralization.**

An *approved* method that is capable of neutralizing spilled liquid electrolyte from the largest battery or vessel to a pH between 5.0 and 9.0 shall be provided.

#### **1207.6.2.3 Communications utilities.**

The requirements of [Section 1207.6.2](#) shall apply only when the aggregate capacity of multiple vessels exceeds 1,000 gallons (3785 L) for lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems operating at less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC that are located at facilities under the exclusive control of communications utilities, and those facilities comply with [NFPA 76](#) in addition to applicable requirements of this code.

### 1207.6.3 Explosion control.

Where required by [Table 1207.6](#) or elsewhere in this code, explosion control complying with [Section 911](#) shall be provided for rooms, areas or walk-in units containing electrochemical ESS technologies.

#### Exceptions:

1. Where approved, explosion control is permitted to be waived by the fire code official based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#) that demonstrates that flammable gases are not liberated from electrochemical ESS cells or modules where tested in accordance with [UL 9540A](#).
2. Where approved, explosion control is permitted to be waived by the fire code official based on documentation provided in accordance with [Section 104.7](#) that demonstrates that the electrochemical ESS technology to be used does not have the potential to release flammable gas concentrations in excess of 25 percent of the LFL anywhere in the room, area, walk-in unit or structure under thermal runaway or other fault conditions.

### 1207.6.4 Safety caps.

Where required by [Table 1207.6](#) or elsewhere in this code, vented batteries and other ESS shall be provided with flame-arresting safety caps.

### 1207.6.5 Thermal runaway.

Where required by [Table 1207.6](#) or elsewhere in this code, batteries and other ESS shall be provided with a *listed* device or other *approved* method to prevent, detect and minimize the impact of thermal runaway.

### 1207.7 Indoor installations.

Indoor ESS installations shall be in accordance with [Sections 1207.7.1](#) through [1207.7.4](#).

**TABLE 1207.7**  
**INDOOR ESS INSTALLATIONS**

COMPLIANCE REQUIRED		DEDICATED- USE BUILDINGS <sup>a</sup>	NONDEDICATED- USE BUILDINGS <sup>b</sup>
Feature	Section		
Dwelling units and sleeping units	<a href="#">1207.7.3</a>	NA	Yes
Elevation	<a href="#">1207.5.3</a>	Yes	Yes
Fire suppression systems	<a href="#">1207.5.5</a>	Yes <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Fire-resistance-rated separations	<a href="#">1207.7.4</a>	Yes	Yes
General installation requirements	<a href="#">1207.4</a>	Yes	Yes
Maximum allowable quantities	<a href="#">1207.5.2</a>	No	Yes
Size and separation	<a href="#">1207.5.1</a>	Yes	Yes
Smoke and automatic fire detection <sup>e</sup>	<a href="#">1207.5.4</a>	Yes <sup>d</sup>	Yes
Technology specific protection	<a href="#">1207.6</a>	Yes	Yes

NA = Not Allowed.

1. a. See [Section 1207.7.1](#).
2. b. See [Section 1207.7.2](#).
3. c. Where approved by the fire code official, fire suppression systems are permitted to be omitted in dedicated-use buildings located more than 100 feet (30.5 m) from buildings, lot lines, public ways, stored combustible materials, hazardous materials, high-piled stock and other exposure hazards.
4. d. Where approved by the fire code official, alarm signals are not required to be transmitted to a central station, proprietary or remote station service in accordance with [NFPA 72](#), or a constantly attended location where local fire alarm annunciation is provided and trained personnel are always present.
5. e. Lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery systems installed in Group U buildings and structures less than 1,500 square feet (139 m<sup>2</sup>) under the exclusive control of communications utilities, and operating at



less than 50 VAC and 60 VDC in accordance with [NFPA 76](#), are not required to have an approved automatic smoke or fire detection system.

#### **1207.7.1 Dedicated-use buildings.**

For the purpose of [Table 1207.7](#), dedicated-use ESS buildings shall be classified as Group F-1 occupancies and comply with all the following:

1. The building shall only be used for ESS, electrical energy generation and other electrical grid-related operations.
2. Occupants in the rooms and areas containing ESS are limited to personnel that operate, maintain, service, test and repair the ESS and other energy systems.
3. No other occupancy types shall be permitted in the building.
4. Administrative and support personnel shall be permitted in areas within the buildings that do not contain ESS, provided that:
  - 4.1. The areas do not occupy more than 10 percent of the building area of the story in which they are located.
  - 4.2. A means of egress is provided from the incidental use areas to the public way that does not require occupants to traverse through areas containing ESS or other energy system equipment.

#### **1207.7.2 Nondedicated-use buildings.**

For the purpose of [Table 1207.7](#), nondedicated-use buildings include all buildings that contain ESS and do not comply with [Section 1207.7.1](#) dedicated-use building requirements.

#### **1207.7.3 Dwelling units and sleeping units.**

ESS shall not be installed in *sleeping units* or in *habitable spaces* of *dwelling units*.

#### **1207.7.4 Fire-resistance-rated separations.**

Rooms and areas containing ESS shall include *fire-resistance-rated* separations as follows:

1. In dedicated-use buildings, rooms and areas containing ESS shall be separated from areas in which administrative and support personnel are located.
2. In nondedicated-use buildings, rooms and areas containing ESS shall be separated from other areas in the building.

Separation shall be provided by 2-hour *fire barriers* constructed in accordance with [Section 707](#) of the *International Building Code* and 2-hour *horizontal assemblies* constructed in accordance with [Section 711](#) of the *International Building Code*, as appropriate.

#### **1207.8 Outdoor installations.**

Outdoor installations shall be in accordance with [Sections 1207.8.1](#) through [1207.8.3](#). Exterior wall installations for individual ESS units not exceeding 20 kWh shall be in accordance with [Section 1207.8.4](#).

**TABLE 1207.8**  
**OUTDOOR ESS INSTALLATIONS<sup>a</sup>**

COMPLIANCE REQUIRED		REMOTE INSTALLATIONS <sup>a</sup>	INSTALLATIONS NEAR EXPOSURES <sup>b</sup>
Feature	Section		
All ESS installations	<a href="#">1207.4</a>	Yes	Yes
Clearance to exposures	<a href="#">1207.8.3</a>	Yes	Yes
Fire suppression systems	<a href="#">1207.5.5</a>	Yes <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Maximum allowable quantities	<a href="#">1207.5.2</a>	No	Yes
Maximum enclosure size	<a href="#">1207.5.6</a>	Yes	Yes
Means of egress separation	<a href="#">1207.5.8</a>	Yes	Yes
Size and separation	<a href="#">1207.5.1</a>	No	Yes <sup>d</sup>
Smoke and automatic fire detection	<a href="#">1207.5.4</a>	Yes	Yes
Technology-specific protection	<a href="#">1207.6</a>	Yes	Yes
Vegetation control	<a href="#">1207.5.7</a>	Yes	Yes

1. a. See [Section 1207.8.1](#).
2. b. See [Section 1207.8.2](#).
3. c. Where approved by the fire code official, fire suppression systems are permitted to be omitted.
4. d. In outdoor walk-in units, spacing is not required between ESS units and the walls of the enclosure.

#### **1207.8.1 Remote outdoor installations.**

For the purpose of [Table 1207.8](#), remote outdoor installations include ESS located more than 100 feet (30 480 mm) from buildings, lot lines, public ways, stored combustible materials, hazardous materials, high-piled stock and other exposure hazards.

#### **1207.8.2 Installations near exposures.**

For the purpose of [Table 1207.8](#), installations near exposures include all outdoor ESS installations that do not comply with [Section 1207.8.1](#) remote outdoor location requirements.

#### **1207.8.3 Clearance to exposures.**

ESS located outdoors shall be separated by a minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) from the following exposures:

1. Lot lines.
2. Public ways.
3. Buildings.
4. Stored combustible materials.
5. Hazardous materials.
6. High-piled stock.
7. Other exposure hazards.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Clearances are permitted to be reduced to 3 feet (914 mm) where a 1-hour free-standing fire barrier suitable for exterior use and extending 5 feet (1524 mm) above and 5 feet (1524 mm) beyond the physical boundary of the ESS installation is provided to protect the exposure.
2. Clearances to buildings are permitted to be reduced to 3 feet (914 mm) where noncombustible exterior walls with no openings or combustible overhangs are provided on the wall adjacent to the ESS and the fire-resistance rating of the exterior wall is a minimum of 2 hours.
3. Clearances to buildings are permitted to be reduced to 3 feet (914 mm) where a weatherproof enclosure constructed of noncombustible materials is provided over the ESS, and it has been demonstrated that a fire

within the enclosure will not ignite combustible materials outside the enclosure based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).

#### **1207.8.4 Exterior wall installations.**

ESS shall be permitted to be installed outdoors on exterior walls of buildings when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The maximum energy capacity of individual ESS units shall not exceed 20 kWh.
2. The ESS shall comply with applicable requirements in [Section 1207](#).
3. The ESS shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and their listing.
4. Individual ESS units shall be separated from each other by at least 3 feet (914 mm).
5. The ESS shall be separated from doors, windows, operable openings into buildings or HVAC inlets by at least 5 feet (1524 mm).

**Exception:** Where approved, smaller separation distances in Items 4 and 5 shall be permitted based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).

#### **207.9 Special installations.**

Rooftop and open parking garage ESS installations shall comply with [Sections 1207.9.1](#) through [1207.9.6](#).

**TABLE 1207.9**

#### **SPECIAL ESS INSTALLATIONS**

COMPLIANCE REQUIRED		ROOFTOPS <sup>a</sup>	OPEN GARAGES <sup>b</sup> PARKING
Feature	Section		
All ESS installations	<a href="#">1207.4</a>	Yes	Yes
Clearance to exposures	<a href="#">1207.9.3</a>	Yes	Yes
Fire suppression systems	<a href="#">1207.9.4</a>	Yes	Yes
Maximum allowable quantities	<a href="#">1207.5.2</a>	Yes	Yes
Maximum enclosure size	<a href="#">1207.5.6</a>	Yes	Yes
Means of egress separation	<a href="#">1207.5.8</a>	Yes	Yes
Open parking garage installations	<a href="#">1207.9.6</a>	No	Yes
Rooftop installations	<a href="#">1207.9.5</a>	Yes	No
Size and separation	<a href="#">1207.5.1</a>	Yes	Yes
Smoke and automatic fire detection	<a href="#">1207.5.4</a>	Yes	Yes
Technology-specific protection	<a href="#">1207.6</a>	Yes	Yes

1. a. See [Section 1207.9.1](#).
2. b. See [Section 1207.9.2](#).

#### **1207.9.1 Rooftop installations.**

For the purpose of [Table 1207.9](#), rooftop ESS installations are those located on the roofs of buildings.

#### **1207.9.2 Open parking garage installations.**

For the purpose of [Table 1207.9](#), open parking garage ESS installations are those located in a structure or portion of a structure that complies with [Section 406.5](#) of the *International Building Code*.

#### **1207.9.3 Clearance to exposures.**

ESS located on rooftops and in open parking garages shall be separated by a minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) from the following exposures:

1. Buildings, except the building on which rooftop ESS is mounted.
2. Any portion of the building on which a rooftop system is mounted that is elevated above the rooftop on which the system is installed.
3. Lot lines.
4. Public ways.
5. Stored combustible materials.
6. Locations where motor vehicles can be parked.
7. Hazardous materials.
8. Other exposure hazards.

**Exceptions:**

1. Clearances are permitted to be reduced to 3 feet (914 mm) where a 1-hour free-standing fire barrier suitable for exterior use and extending 5 feet (1524 mm) above and 5 feet (1524 mm) beyond the physical boundary of the ESS installation is provided to protect the exposure.
2. Clearances are permitted to be reduced to 3 feet (914 mm) where a weatherproof enclosure constructed of noncombustible materials is provided over the ESS, and it has been demonstrated that a fire within the enclosure will not ignite combustible materials outside the enclosure based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).

**1207.9.4 Fire suppression systems.**

ESS located in walk-in units on rooftops or in walk-in units in open parking garages shall be provided with automatic fire suppression systems within the ESS enclosure in accordance with [Section 1207.5.5](#). Areas containing ESS other than walk in units in open parking structures on levels not open above to the sky shall be provided with an automatic fire suppression system complying with [Section 1207.5.5](#).

**Exception:** A fire suppression system is not required in open parking garages if large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#) is provided that shows that a fire will not impact the exposures in [Section 1207.9.3](#).

**1207.9.4 Rooftop installations.**

ESS and associated equipment that are located on rooftops and not enclosed by building construction shall comply with the following:

1. Stairway access to the roof for emergency response and fire department personnel shall be provided either through a bulkhead from the interior of the building or a stairway on the exterior of the building.
2. Service walkways at least 5 feet (1524 mm) in width shall be provided for service and emergency personnel from the point of access to the roof to the system.
3. ESS and associated equipment shall be located from the edge of the roof a distance equal to at least the height of the system, equipment or component but not less than 5 feet (1524 mm).
4. The roofing materials under and within 5 feet (1524 mm) horizontally from an ESS or associated equipment shall be noncombustible or shall have a Class A rating when tested in accordance with ASTM E108 or [UL 790](#).
5. A Class I standpipe outlet shall be installed at an approved location on the roof level of the building or in the stairway bulkhead at the top level.
6. The ESS shall be the minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) from the fire service access point on the rooftop.

**1207.9.5 Open parking garages.**

ESS and associated equipment that are located in open parking garages shall comply with all of the following:

1. ESS shall not be located within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of air inlets for building HVAC systems.

**Exception:** This distance shall be permitted to be reduced to 25 feet (7620 mm) if the automatic fire alarm system monitoring the radiant-energy sensing detectors de-energizes the ventilation system connected to the air intakes upon detection of fire.

2. ESS shall not be located within 25 feet (7620 mm) of *exits* leading from the attached building where located on a covered level of the parking structure not directly open to the sky above.
3. An *approved* fence with a locked gate or other *approved* barrier shall be provided to keep the general public at least 5 feet (1524 mm) from the outer enclosure of the ESS.

**1207.10 Mobile ESS equipment and operations.**

Mobile ESS equipment and operations shall comply with [Sections 1207.10.1 through 1207.10.7.7](#).

**TABLE 1207.10****MOBILE ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (ESS)**

COMPLIANCE REQUIRED		DEPLOYMENT <sup>a</sup>
Feature	Section	
All ESS installations	<a href="#">1207.4</a>	Yes <sup>b</sup>
Fire suppression systems	<a href="#">1207.5.5</a>	Yes <sup>c</sup>
Maximum allowable quantities	<a href="#">1207.5.2</a>	Yes
Maximum enclosure size	<a href="#">1207.5.6</a>	Yes
Means of egress separation	<a href="#">1207.5.8</a>	Yes
Size and separation	<a href="#">1207.5.1</a>	Yes <sup>d</sup>
Smoke and automatic fire detection	<a href="#">1207.5.4</a>	Yes <sup>e</sup>
Technology-specific protection	<a href="#">1207.6</a>	Yes
Vegetation control	<a href="#">1207.5.7</a>	Yes

1. a. See [Section 1207.10.2](#).
2. b. Mobile operations on wheeled vehicles and trailers shall not be required to comply with [Section 1207.4.4](#) seismic and structural load requirements.
3. c. Fire suppression system connections to the water supply shall be permitted to use approved temporary connections.
4. d. In walk-in units, spacing is not required between ESS units and the walls of the enclosure.
5. e. Alarm signals are not required to be transmitted to an approved location for mobile ESS deployed 30 days or less.

**1207.10.1 Charging and storage.**

For the purpose of [Section 1207.10](#), charging and storage covers the operation where mobile ESS are charged and stored so they are ready for deployment to another site, and where they are charged and stored after a deployment.

**1207.10.2 Deployment.**

For the purpose of [Section 1207.10](#), deployment covers operations where mobile ESS are located at a site other than the charging and storage site and are being used to provide power.

**1207.10.3 Permits.**

Construction and operational permits shall be provided for charging and storage of mobile ESS and operational permits shall be provided for deployment of mobile ESS as required by [Section 1207.1.2](#).

**1207.10.4 Construction documents.**

*Construction documents* complying with [Section 1207.1.3](#) shall be provided with the construction permit application for mobile ESS charging and storage locations.

**1207.10.4.1 Deployment documents.**

The following information shall be provided with the operation permit applications for mobile ESS deployments:

1. Relevant information for the mobile ESS equipment and protection measures in the *construction documents* required by [Section 1207.1.3](#).
2. Location and layout diagram of the area in which the mobile ESS is to be deployed, including a scale diagram of all nearby exposures.
3. Location and content of signage, including no smoking signs.

4. Description of fencing to be provided around the ESS, including locking methods.
5. Details on fire suppression, smoke and automatic fire detection, system monitoring, thermal management, exhaust ventilation and explosion control, if provided.
6. For deployment, the intended duration of operation, including anticipated connection and disconnection times and dates.
7. Location and description of local staging stops during transit to the deployment site. See [Section 1207.10.7.5](#).
8. Description of the temporary wiring, including connection methods, conductor type and size, and circuit overcurrent protection to be provided.
9. Description of how fire suppression system connections to water supplies or extinguishing agents are to be provided.
10. Contact information for personnel who are responsible for maintaining and servicing the equipment, and responding to emergencies as required by [Section 1207.1.6.1](#).

#### **1207.10.5 Approved locations.**

Locations where mobile ESS are charged, stored and deployed shall be restricted to the locations established on the construction and operational permits.

#### **1207.10.6 Charging and storage.**

Installations where mobile ESS are charged and stored shall be treated as permanent ESS indoor or outdoor installations, and shall comply with the following sections, as applicable:

1. Indoor charging and storage shall comply with [Section 1207.7](#).
2. Outdoor charging and storage shall comply with [Section 1207.8](#).
3. Charging and storage on rooftops and in open parking garages shall comply with [Section 1207.9](#).

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Electrical connections shall be permitted to be made using temporary wiring complying with the manufacturer's instructions, the [UL 9540](#) listing and [NFPA 70](#).
2. Fire suppression system connections to the water supply shall be permitted to use approved temporary connections.

#### **1207.10.7 Deployed mobile ESS requirements.**

Deployed mobile ESS equipment and operations shall comply with this section and [Table 1207.10](#).

##### **1207.10.7.1 Duration.**

The duration of mobile ESS deployment shall not exceed 30 days.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Mobile ESS deployments that provide power for durations longer than 30 days shall comply with [Section 1207.10.6](#).
2. Mobile ESS deployments shall not exceed 180 days unless additional operational permits are obtained.

##### **1207.10.7.2 Restricted locations.**

Deployed mobile ESS operations shall not be located indoors, in covered parking garages, on rooftops, below grade or under building overhangs.

##### **1207.10.7.3 Clearance to exposures.**

Deployed mobile ESS shall be separated by a minimum of 10 feet (3048 mm) from the following exposures:

1. Public ways.
2. Buildings.
3. Stored combustible materials.
4. Hazardous materials.
5. High-piled storage.
6. Other exposure hazards.

Deployed mobile ESS shall be separated by a minimum of 50 feet (15 240 mm) from public seating areas and from tents, canopies and membrane structures with an *occupant load* of 30 or more.

#### **1207.10.7.4 Electrical connections.**

Electrical connections shall be made in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the [UL 9540](#) listing. Temporary wiring for electrical power connections shall comply with [NFPA 70](#). Fixed electrical wiring shall not be provided.

#### **1207.10.7.5 Local staging.**

Mobile ESS in transit from the charging and storage location to the deployment location and back shall not be parked within 100 feet (30 480 mm) of an occupied building for more than 1 hour during transit, unless specifically *approved* by the *fire code official* when the permit is issued.

#### **1207.10.7.6 Fencing.**

An *approved* fence with a locked gate or other *approved* barrier shall be provided to keep the general public at least 5 feet (1524 mm) from the outer enclosure of a deployed mobile ESS.

#### **1207.10.7.7 Smoking.**

Smoking shall be prohibited within 10 feet (3048 mm) of mobile ESS. Signs shall be posted in accordance with [Section 310](#).

#### **1207.11 ESS in Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies.**

ESS in Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies shall be installed and maintained in accordance with [Sections 1207.11.1](#) through [1207.11.9](#). The temporary use of an *owner* or occupant's electric-powered vehicle as an ESS shall be in accordance with [Section 1207.11.10](#).

##### **1207.11.1 Equipment listings.**

ESS shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [UL 9540](#). ESS *listed* and *labeled* solely for utility or commercial use shall not be used for residential applications.

##### **Exceptions:**

1. Where approved, repurposed unlisted battery systems from electric vehicles are allowed to be installed outdoors or in detached dedicated cabinets located not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from exterior walls, property lines and public ways.
2. ESS less than 1 kWh (3.6 megajoules).

##### **1207.11.2 Installation.**

ESS shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and their listing.

##### **1207.11.2.1 Spacing.**

Individual units shall be separated from each other by at least 3 feet (914 mm) of spacing unless smaller separation distances are documented to be adequate based on large-scale fire testing complying with [Section 1207.1.5](#).

##### **1207.11.3 Location.**

ESS shall be installed only in the following locations:

1. Detached garages and detached accessory structures.
2. Attached garages separated from the *dwelling unit* living space and *sleeping units* in accordance with [Section 406.3.2](#) of the *International Building Code*.
3. Outdoors on exterior walls located a minimum of 3 feet (914 mm) from doors and windows.
4. Utility closets and storage or utility spaces within *dwelling units* and *sleeping units*.

##### **1207.11.4 Energy ratings.**

Individual ESS units shall have a maximum rating of 20 kWh. The aggregate rating structure shall not exceed:

1. 40 kWh within utility closets and storage or utility spaces.
2. 80 kWh in attached or detached garages and detached accessory structures.
3. 80 kWh on exterior walls.
4. 80 kWh outdoors on the ground.

##### **1207.11.5 Electrical installation.**

ESS shall be installed in accordance with [NFPA 70](#). Inverters shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with [UL 1741](#) or provided as part of the [UL 9540](#) listing. Systems connected to the utility grid shall use inverters *listed* for utility interaction.



**12.07.11.6 Fire detection.**

Rooms and areas within *dwelling units*, *sleeping units* and attached garages in which ESS are installed shall be protected by smoke alarms in accordance with [Section 907.2.11](#). A *heat detector listed* and interconnected to the smoke alarms shall be installed in locations within *dwelling units*, *sleeping units* and attached garages where smoke alarms cannot be installed based on their listing.

**1207.11.7 Protection from impact.**

Stationary storage battery systems installed in a location subject to vehicle damage shall be protected by *approved* barriers. Appliances in garages shall also be installed in accordance with [Section 304.3](#) of the *International Mechanical Code*.

**1207.11.8 Ventilation.**

Indoor installations of ESS that include batteries that produce hydrogen or other flammable gases during charging shall be provided with exhaust ventilation in accordance with [Section 1207.6.1](#).

**1207.11.9 Toxic and highly toxic gas.**

ESS that have the potential to release toxic or highly toxic gas during charging, discharging and normal use conditions shall not be installed within Group R-3 or R-4 occupancies.

**1207.11.10 Electric vehicle use.**

The temporary use of an owner or occupant's electric-powered vehicle to power a *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* while parked in an attached or detached garage or outside shall comply with the vehicle manufacturer's instructions and [NFPA 70](#).