



INFORMATION BULLETIN / PUBLIC - ELECTRICAL CODE

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PERMIT FEES FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC MICROINVERTERS

PURPOSE

This information bulletin clarifies the Department of Building and Safety’s determination of permit fees for solar photovoltaic microinverters, herein referred to as “microinverters.” This bulletin does not address the reduced permit fees as mandated by State of California for roof mounted solar system.

BACKGROUND

The table provided in Section 93.0218(a) of the 2017 edition of the City of Los Angeles Electrical Code specifies the fees for the installation, reinstallation, replacement, or alteration of solar photovoltaic system components. Within the table, the fees for inverters are based on their KW rating, and the fees for microinverters have been determined on the same basis.

With the technology progress in the field of solar photovoltaic systems, the need for installation of solar photovoltaic microinverters larger than the typical 3 to 5 KW ratings has increased. Therefore, to avoid disproportionate permit fees for microinverters compared to inverters, the permit fees for microinverters shall be calculated as described in the following Section.

PERMIT FEE

The permit fees will be determined based on the sum of KW ratings or fractions thereof of microinverters to be installed according to the table below for each combined rating:

SUM OF KW COMBINED RATINGS OR FRACTION THEREOF OF MICROINVERTERS	\$FEE/EACH COMBINED RATINGS
Not exceeding total 3KW	8.00
Over 3 and not over total 5	18.00
Over 5 and not over total 20	27.00
Over 20 and not over total 50	39.00
Over 50 and not over total 100	71.50
Over 100*	111.00

* For every sum of combined rating of 500 KW or fraction thereof increments (divide the total sum by 500) roundup to a whole number.

The following examples will clarify application of the above table:

EXAMPLE 1

46, 215 W rated, microinverters are to be installed. What is the permit fee for the microinverters?

- Step 1: Determine the equivalent sum of KW combined rating of these microinverters.
This would be: $46 \times 215 = 9890 \text{ W} / 1000 = 9.89 \text{ KW}$.
- Step 2: Look at the table to see in what range the 9.89 KW will be located. In this case, 9.89 KW will be located between “Over 5 and not over 20” KW range.
- Step 3: Look under “\$FEE/EACH COMBINED RATINGS” for the fee that corresponds with “Over 5 and not over total 20”, to determine the permit fee. So, the microinverter permit fee is: **\$27.00**.

EXAMPLE 2

1600, 215 W rated, microinverters are to be installed. What is the permit fee for the microinverters?

- Step 1: Determine the equivalent sum KW combined rating of these microinverters.
This would be: $1600 \times 215 = 344000 \text{ W} / 1000 = 344 \text{ KW}$.
- Step 2: Look at the table to see in what range the 344 KW will be located. In this case, 344 KW will be located above “Over 100” KW, but does not exceed the 500 KW limit as described under the table.
- Step 3: Look under “\$FEE/EACH COMBINED RATINGS” for the fee that corresponds with “Over 100”, to determine the permit fee. So, the microinverter permit fee is: **\$111.00**.

EXAMPLE 3

4600, 215 W rated, microinverters are to be installed. What is the permit fee for the microinverters?

- Step 1: Determine the equivalent sum KW combined rating of these microinverters.
This would be: $4600 \times 215 = 989000 \text{ W} / 1000 = 989 \text{ KW}$.
- Step 2: Look at the table to see in what range the 989 KW will be located. In this case, 989 KW will be located above “Over 100” KW, but it exceeds the 500 KW limit as described under the table.
- Step 3: Divide the 989 KW by 500 to determine the total number of combined rating over 500. In this case, the number would be: $989 \text{ KW} / 500 \text{ KW} = 1.978$, rounded to the next whole number of 2, as described under the table.
- Step 4: Look up under “\$FEE/EACH COMBINED RATINGS” for the fee that corresponds with “Over 100”, to determine the permit fee. In this case it would be \$111.00 for each combined sum over 100 KW
- Step 5: From Step 3 we found that total number of combined rating for over 500 KW in this example is equivalent to 2, so multiply the permit fee from Step 4 by 2. In this case, the microinverter permit fee is: $2 \times \$111 = \mathbf{\$222}$.

The standard plan for the microinverters can be found in the “Pre-Approved Standard Plans” located under the “Forms & Publications” drop down menu at www.ladbs.org web page.