

# Photovoltaic Module Safety & Installation Manual

## NOTICE!

Please carefully read and understand the contents of this installation manual before installing, wiring, or operating Upsolar products in your PV system. Failure to follow all proceeding terms and conditions will void Upsolar's "Limited Warranty for PV Modules".

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing Upsolar photovoltaic (PV) modules. Our goal is to provide you with high quality PV modules to ensure a secure long-term investment.

This installation guide, provided by Upsolar Group Co., Ltd. and supplied with Upsolar products, contains information regarding proper handling, installation, and maintenance of Upsolar modules.

All instructions in this manual should be read and fully understood by all parties before any attempt to install Upsolar PV modules. PV project designers and installers should always comply with all safety precautions listed within this manual as well as with any local or jurisdictional codes that pertain to PV installations.

Upsolar reserves the right to make changes to its products and installation manual without prior notice to the customer.

Please contact [support@upsolar.com](mailto:support@upsolar.com) for any additional questions or explanations.

### 1.1 Liability Conditions

The installation techniques, handling and use of Upsolar's products are beyond Upsolar's control. Therefore, Upsolar does not assume responsibility for loss, damage or expenses resulting from improper installation, handling or use of its products.

### 1.2 Limited Warranty

All Upsolar product warranties are listed in the Upsolar warranty conditions which can be downloaded from the Upsolar group website: [www.upsolar.com](http://www.upsolar.com).

## 2.0 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



Before installing or operating modules, please read and understand all safety instructions in this manual!

**Module Installation** should only be carried out by qualified individuals.

- Always follow and observe all appropriate regional and jurisdictional electric codes.
- Always use properly insulated and/or rated electrical and mechanical tools during installation of PV modules.
- Always mount PV modules over a fire resistant roof, when mounting on a roof (refer to IEC 61730-1 clause 12.4).
- Always ground all PV modules according to the local electrical codes.
- Always use only one type of PV module within a PV string.
- Do not step on or put heavy/sharp objects on PV modules.
- Do not disconnect modules under load.
- Do not use artificial methods, like applying water, to cool a PV module.
- Do not touch a PV module terminal box or the end of output cables. Avoid wearing metallic jewelry or devices attached to the body during installation.
- Do not install PV modules in wet or windy conditions.
- Do not drill extra holes in module frame or glass surface.
- Do not store or install PV modules in the vicinity of flammable gases or materials.
- Do not disassemble any part of the PV module.
- Do not expose the PV modules to artificially concentrated sunlight (refer to IEC 61730-1 clause 12.5).

## 3.0 ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A PV MODULE

It is very important to understand that a PV module can have electrical characteristics different from the Standard Test Conditions (STC) rating on its nameplate. Atmospheric conditions can increase the module's current and/or voltage to higher levels than those reported in STC.

**STC = 1000 W/m<sup>2</sup> AM 1.5 25°C**

Always refer to your local regulations when sizing conductors, fuses, inverters, and other Balance of System (BOS) components.

## WARNING

All installation and mounting instructions must be read and properly understood before attempting to install, wire, and/or operate PV modules. PV modules generate DC electricity when exposed to light. This can pose danger to the installer, user, and/or property. Any contact with electrically active module terminals can result in arcing, potentially leading to shocks, burns, fires, and/or death.

**PV modules are electrically live when mounted and installed.**

**Danger:** Electrical hazard increases with parallel connections (higher currents) and series connection (higher voltages) of PV modules.

The PV installer must assume all inherent risk of property damage and/or personal injury related to the mishandling of PV modules during installation and maintenance.

"Under normal conditions, a photovoltaic module is likely to experience conditions that produce more current and/or voltage than reported at standard test conditions. Accordingly, the values of ISC and VOC marked on this module should be multiplied by a factor of 1.25 when determining component voltage ratings, conductor current ratings, fuse sizes, and size of controls connected to the PV output." (Extract from IEC 61730-1 clause 12.7 and UL1703 clause 48.9)

"Refer to Section 690-8 of the National Electrical Code for an additional multiplying factor of 125 percent (80 percent derating) which may be applicable." (Extract from UL1703, clause 48.6)

## 4.0 ELECTRICAL CONFIGURATIONS

The installation techniques, handling and use of Upsolar's products are beyond Upsolar's control. Therefore, Upsolar does not assume responsibility for loss, damage or expenses resulting from improper installation, handling or use of its products.

### 4.1 General Wiring

Please follow all module specification and jurisdictional laws regarding interconnection of PV modules. Modules can be connected in both series and parallel to attain the desired electrical output.

Combined source circuits should contain only one type of PV module.

Conductors must meet or exceed the following requirements (refer to IEC 61730-1 clause 12.3):

- Size: minimum 4.0 mm<sup>2</sup> (12 AWG) for modules connected in series
- Temperature rating (-40°C to +90°C)
- Type PV-wire, USE-2 or equivalent

### 4.2 Maximum Voltage (for series connection)



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### 4.3 PV Module and Equipment

Please refer to the applicable regional and local codes in regards to grounding PV modules and other PV system components.

If PV modules' individual grounding is required by local legislation, Upsolar PV modules should be grounded through the frames, using one of the provided grounding holes (Figure 1). Please refer to NEC Article 250, 690.41-690.49, and UL Standard 1703 for proper grounding procedures.

Example (refer to IEC61730-1 clause 12.3): remove any anodization or oxidation from the module frame at the grounding lug point of contact. Apply a thin coat of anti-oxidant film, then use a stainless steel M3.5 screw (with serrated screwhead to penetrate the frame anodized layer), nut, and lock washer to attach an outdoor rated tin-plated copper lug. Attach an equipment grounding conductor (4mm<sup>2</sup> -12AWG- not provided by Upsolar) to the installed grounding lug (not provided by Upsolar).

## 4.4 Lightning Protection

PV systems do not generally increase the risk of buildings being struck by lightning. If a lightning protection system currently exists on the installation building, the PV system should be connected to it. To minimize risk in the event of lightning strike, avoid DC cable loops when designing the system. Surge arrestors on the DC side of the PV system are recommended. If no lightning protection exists, all PV modules should be earth-grounded according to local technical regulations.

## 4.5 Overcurrent Protection Device (OCPD)

When the potential reverse current of a PV string exceeds the rated Upsolar PV module series fuse rating (values indicated in the module datasheet) an overcurrent protection device (OCPD) must be used (IEC 61730-1 clause 12.3). One or two strings of PV modules in parallel do not require OCPD's, but 3 or more PV strings in parallel will usually require an OCPD. In this case, it is recommended to use one fuse per string rated at  $1.56 \times I_{sc}$  or higher ( $I_{sc}$  is the PV module's short circuit current at STC). Example of fuse types: DCM 600Vdc or PV Fuse 1000Vdc.

Each Upsolar module is equipped with 3 by-pass diodes (Schottky type) connected in parallel of the strings of cells to limit the cells heating up in conditions of partial shading (hot-spot effect). The characteristics of these diodes are:

- Voltage rating:  $V_{RRM} = 45 \text{ V}$
- Current rating:  $I_F = 15 \text{ A}$

## 5.0 MODULE CHARACTERISTICS

### 5.1 Operating temperature

Always try to provide adequate ventilation around installed PV modules, especially in hot environments. High temperatures have a negative impact on cell performance.

Predetermined nominal temperatures for Upsolar modules:

Maximum Operating Temperature	+90° C	+194° F
Minimum Operating Temperature	-40° C	-40° F

Table 1: UPSOLAR MODULE OPERATING TEMPERATURES

- It is recommended that a space of at least 5cm (2 inches) is maintained between the mounting surface and the PV module.
- A gap larger than 5mm (3/16 inch) is recommended between adjoining modules to allow for thermal expansion.

### 5.2 PV Module Design Strength

Upsolar PV modules have been tested according to IEC design qualification type EN 61215: 2005 and IEC safety standard EN 61730-1&2:2007 (Application class A, refer to clause 12.1).

Modules rated for use in the application class A may be used in systems operating at greater than 50V DC or 240W, where general contact access is anticipated. Modules qualified for safety through this part of the IEC 61730-1 and IEC 61730-2 safety standards and within this application class are considered to meet the requirements for safety class II.

Upsolar PV modules have passed the mechanical load test to 5400 Pa. This corresponds to a wind speed of approximately 200 km/h.

Upsolar PV modules comply with the test requirements for UL 1703 type 1 fire classification.

### 5.3 PV Mounting Hardware

All hardware that comes into contact with the PV module frame should be corrosion and UV resistant. Damage to the module frame or structure could occur if improper materials are used.

To minimize galvanic corrosion, metals compatible with aluminum should be used when in contact with the PV module frame.

Always apply proper torque settings to all mounting hardware according to specifications (see section 6.1). Minimum mechanical means specified by the mounting solution supplier should be used.

### 5.4 Operating Environments

Do not mount or operate Upsolar PV modules in the following environments:

- Extreme wind
- Extreme temperature (see Table 1)
- Near flammable gasses or materials

For installations on agricultural roofs or in coastal areas, refer to the instructions given in the documents "Upsolar declaration – Ammonia" and "Upsolar declaration – Coastal areas".

For installation in high moisture area (e.g. tropical climate), we strongly recommend to either connect the PV modules to an inverter with transformer and a proper grounding of the negative pole of each string or to confirm that the PV modules are belonging to the PID resistant Upsolar products range before proceeding to the installation.

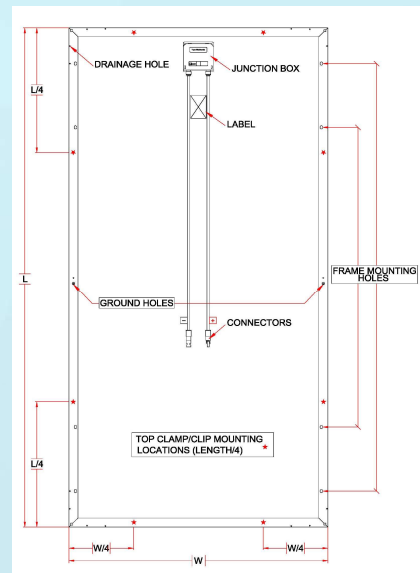


Figure 1 : Module mounting diagram

## 6.0 MOUNTING CONFIGURATION

Always try to select a suitable orientation to maximize the sunlight exposure to the PV module surface. Shading can significantly affect the module and string performance in a PV array.

Sufficient space between the module frame and mounting structure is required to prevent module damage and to reduce high operating temperatures due to poor air circulation.

### 6.1 PV Module Mounting Techniques

Upsolar PV modules can be mounted either in a vertical or landscape orientation as long as one of the following mounting procedures is followed (refer to IEC 61730-1 clause 12.4)

1. Mounting Clamps (for open-rack and roof installations): Attach the PV module to the mounting system using clamps or clips from a certified manufacturer according to their instructions. Clamps or clips should be spaced at  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length or width of the module from the frame ends ( $\pm 5 \text{ cm}$ ). Top mount clamps/clips should always be mounted symmetrically (see Figure 1). Upsolar recommends the following minimum dimensions for each clamp: catch length: 30mm, catch width: 5mm, thickness: 3mm. The torque recommended to fix the clamps is 15 N.m (11.1 lb.ft).

2. Frame Holes (for open-rack systems): Attach the PV module to the mounting system using the provided mounting holes. At least 4 points of connection are required between each module and the mounting surface. It is recommended that 4 M6 (1/4") SS bolts with nuts and washers be used on each module. The torque recommended to fix the bolts is 15 N.m (11.1 lb.ft).

3. End Mount (for open-rack and roof installations): End mounting implies mounting the length/width of the module's frame to a supporting rail. The end-mounting rail and clips or clamps must be of sufficient strength to allow for maximum design pressure of the module (see datasheet). Verify this capacity with the mounting system vendor before installation.

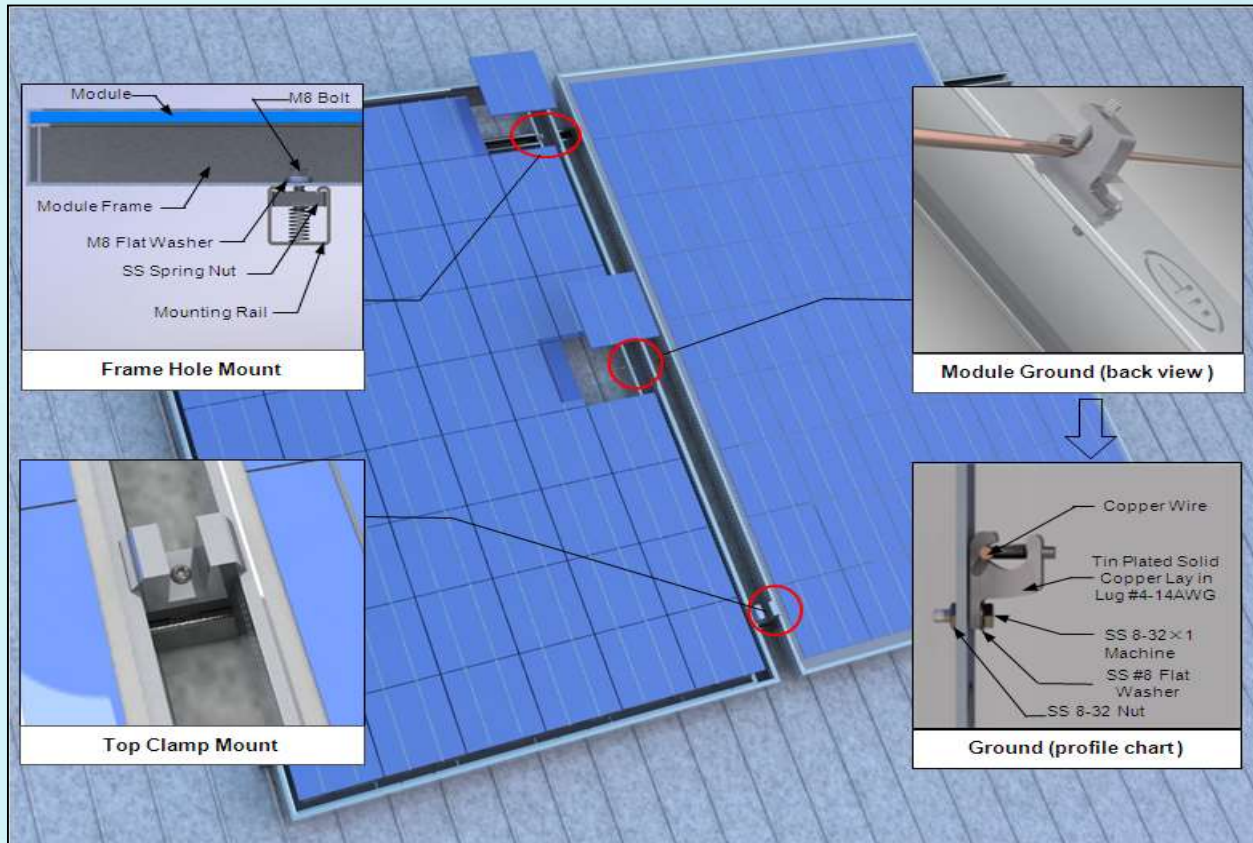
4. Slope: In general, modules should be installed with a slope greater than  $10^\circ$  in order to prevent water stagnation and dirt build-up. Consult local, regional and national building fire statutory regulations regarding mounting requirements. Upsolar PV modules have a type 1 fire rating and must be installed over a roof with appropriate fire resistance. A slope less than 5 in/ft (127 mm/305 mm) is required to maintain a fire class rating.

5. The module is considered to be in compliance with UL 1703 only when the module is mounted in the manner specified by these mounting instructions.
6. A module with exposed conductive parts is considered to be in compliance with UL 1703 only when it is electrically grounded in accordance with the instructions presented below and the requirements of the National electrical Code

7. Any module without a frame (laminated) shall not be considered to comply with the requirements of UL 1703 unless the module is mounted with hardware that has been tested and evaluated with the module under this standard or by a field Inspection certifying that the installed module complies with the requirements of UL 1703

8. The fire rating of this module is valid only when mounted in the manner specified in the mechanical mounting instructions.”

FIGURE 2: MODULE INSTALLATION DIAGRAM



## 6.2 PV modules handling

1. Do not expose the PV module to excessive loads on the surface or bend the module frame. DANGER: Risk of broken glass!
2. Do not stand or step on the PV module. The glass may be slippery. DANGER: Risk of injury and electric shock if glass is broken!
3. PV modules are heavy, please handle them with care. It is recommended that two qualified personnel handle one PV module at a time.
4. Do not hit or put excessive load on the glass or back sheet. PV cells may break.
5. Do not twist the interconnect cables excessively. NEVER expose cables, wires, or other electrical parts to water. DANGER: risk of electric shock!
6. Do not drill holes in the frame. Modifications to the frame will void the "Limited warranty for PV modules".
7. Do not touch the PV module with bare hands. Wear suitable gloves when handling the PV module in order to avoid leaving fingerprints or smudges on the anti-reflective coating layer of the glass. In addition, the frame of the PV module has sharp edges and may cause injury.
8. Do not drop the PV module or allow objects to fall on the PV module.

9. The packaging is not resistant to weathering. Store PV modules in a dry place and NEVER expose them directly to water (eg. rain).
10. Transport the PV modules to the installation site in the original packaging. Before installation, keep all modules and electrical contacts clean and dry.
11. Protect the module cables from mechanical stress during transport and handling. BE CAREFUL: never pull on cables!
12. Handle modules with care when lifting them from pallets. Never stack pallets, and stack a maximum of 23 modules per pallet only. Use appropriate Upsolar plastic corners when stacking PV modules.
13. Check the PV modules for damage after unpacking.
14. Do not install damaged PV modules. When in doubt about the condition of a PV module, please contact Upsolar customer service for advice.
15. Always wear protective head gear, insulating gloves and safety shoes (with rubber soles) when installing PV modules.



## 7.0 MAINTENANCE

Annual inspection of the PV modules, array, and BOS is highly recommended. The following items (regarding the PV modules) should be checked periodically to keep the PV system functioning correctly for many years.

1. Ensure there is no corrosion on the mechanical connections between the PV modules and the mounting structure. Tighten all loose components to specified torque settings.
2. Check all electrical connections between PV modules for corrosion (connectors, cables, and grounds). **DANGER: never disconnect PV modules under load!**

3. Make sure PV modules are clean and free of dirt and dust. Use water and a soft sponge or cloth for cleaning. A mild, non-abrasive cleaning agent can be used if necessary.

- Critical cleaning liquid detergent is recommended. Do not use dishwasher detergent!
- Use water pressure of 45 PSI (3 bar) or less.
- De-ionized water is recommended if available.
- Do not use cold water on hot modules.

4. Make sure all maintenance work is executed by qualified personnel only.