

BALTIMORE COUNTY THIRD PARTY SOLAR PV INSPECTION PROGRAM POLICY

I. POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Baltimore County has experienced a substantial increase in applications for permits to install photovoltaic (solar powered) systems which, in turn has resulted in delays in performing inspections of these systems. To reduce these delays, the County has instituted a new program authorizing the use of approved third party inspectors in conformance with this policy.

II. AUTHORITY

The Baltimore County Building Code (Baltimore County Council Bill 40-15) and the 2015 editions of the International Building Code, Section 110.4, and the International Residential code, Section R109.2

III. INSPECTION STANDARDS

Inspections shall be performed in conformance with the National Electric Code (NFPA 70), the Baltimore County Building Code (Council Bill 40-15) and Council Bill 63-15.

IV. INSPECTION FEES

Fees for third party inspections shall be the responsibility of the permit holder. County permit fees may not be reduced because of the election to utilize an approved third party inspector.

V. QUALIFICATIONS OF INSPECTORS:

Third party inspectors shall:

1. Be ICC certified in at least one of the following categories:
 - a. E5 (Electrical Inspector)
 - b. C5 (Commercial Combination Inspector)
 - c. C8 (Combination Inspector)
 - d. M1 (Master Code Professional)
2. If not ICC certified, hold a Master General electrician's license issued by the Baltimore County Electrical Administrative Board.
3. Hold a certificate as a nongovernmental electrical inspector issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

VI. FINANCIAL INTEREST

Third party inspectors including inspection agencies shall have no financial interest in the project being inspected other than the fee for services hereunder.

VII. INSURANCE & HOLD HARMLESS REQUIREMENTS

Each third party inspector must provide the building official with a valid insurance policy in an amount the building official determines is necessary to protect the public interest but not less than \$300,000 general liability insurance and \$100,000 property damage insurance naming Baltimore County, MD as additional insured. If using subcontractors for any work performed pursuant to this policy, the third party inspector will be responsible for verifying subcontractor insurance and coverages.

The third party inspector agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold the County and elected officials, official, officers, employees, and agents free and harmless from and against any and all losses, penalties, injuries, liabilities, damages, settlements, costs, charges, professional fees or other expenses or liabilities of every kind and character arising out of or relating to any and all claims, liens, demands, obligations, actions, proceedings or causes of action of every kind and character in connection with or arising directly or indirectly out of the performance of any work pursuant to this policy. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any and all such claims, etc., relating to personal injury, infringement of any patent, trademark, copyright, (or application for any thereof) or of any other tangible or intangible personal or property right, or actual or alleged violation of any other tangible or intangible personal or property right, or actual or alleged violation or any applicable statute, ordinance, administrative order, rule or regulation, or decree of any court, shall be included in the indemnity hereunder. The third party inspector further agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for and defend any such claims, etc., at his/her sole expense and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if such claim is groundless, false, or fraudulent.

VIII. NO EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP

The Third Party shall contract directly with the electrical permit applicant for Third Party inspection services on terms agreed to by the parties. The Third Party shall not be deemed an officer, agent, employee or subcontractor of Baltimore County. Baltimore County shall have no liability to any Third Party, including but not limited to liability for payment services.

IX. SANCTIONS

The Building Official may suspend or revoke approval for the following reasons:

1. Failure to enforce the applicable code
2. Falsification of reports or inspections
3. Late reports
4. Lapse or revocation of required certifications, license or insurance
5. Failure to comply with this policy.