



Your Opportunity to get involved in Photovoltaic installations

With recent government announcements of the implementation of the Feed In Tariff (FiT) Solar Photovoltaic has suddenly become a very sought after technology and is now commonly specified on both new build and retrofit.

The good news is that if you are working as an electrician you already have most of the skills and qualifications needed to install the systems and be registered onto the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). Customers who use a MCS certified installer will earn up to 41.3p for every kWh (or 'unit') they generate, even if they use it themselves, and even more if they export it on to the grid.

Financial returns can vary because the electricity you use while your PV system is generating is free, on top of being paid for just generating it. Therefore each case will vary. A small scale retrofit system (<4kWp) is best rewarded by FiT and the rates are guaranteed for 25 years and index linked to make the payments rise in line with inflation so the future returns are extremely attractive.

The Feed in Tariff or "Clean Energy Cash Back" rates are only available if the PV system is installed by an MCS approved contractor. The MCS is an independent scheme that certifies microgeneration products and installers in accordance with consistent standards.

You can join the scheme through several different certification bodies such as the ECA or NICEIC.

As a first step WF is pleased to be able to help you as a contractor by facilitating a 3 day PV Installers course. The course covers everything a PV installer needs to become proficient in installing Photovoltaic Systems and guidance on how to take the next step in gaining the all important MCS approval (this is not the MCS Approval itself).

The Logic Certification PV course will cover the following

- ◆ Solar Photovoltaic survey assessment
- ◆ SAP calculations
- ◆ G83/1 Grid connection requirements
- ◆ AC & DC electrical theory
- ◆ Basic roofing structures & integrity issues
- ◆ Hands-on PV Panel Mounting
- ◆ Mechanical installation of roof fixings
- ◆ Setting to work/commissioning
- ◆ System testing

DURATION: 3 days

COST: £495

Course price includes Logic certification fees, lunch and refreshments.

Further costs will be involved in gaining the actual MCS approval from your trade association. This course is aimed at either experienced electricians or solar PV installers intending to install Grid Connected Solar PV Systems up to 5kWp. It covers the related regulations and standards, AC and DC theory, PV cell types, PV array types, system design and installation, commissioning, testing and fault finding. This course is not intended to cover roof work or access work in detail. The assessment involves both written and practical tasks leading to a nationally recognised installer qualification.

IMPORTANT: It is a pre-requisite that candidates are electrically qualified and are able to design, install, inspect and test a single phase electrical circuit in accordance with BS7671:2008 (the IEE Wiring Regulations 17th Edition).

Course fees include all training and assessment materials for use during the course as well as all the course material and other useful industry documentation supplied on a CD in electronic format.



After you've completed PV Training.

Now you have completed your training you will need to become accredited under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) and become a registered installer. You will need to do this so that your customers are able to claim the benefits of the UK Feed in Tariffs. MCS evaluates installers to provide protection for consumers and ensure that government money is spent in an effective manner.

Select a Certification Body

A list of possible certification bodies can be found at <http://www.microgenerationcertification.org/Certification+Bodies> which includes the ECA (EC Certification Ltd. incorporating ELECSEA) <http://www.elecsa.co.uk/cmsContent.aspx?ID=90220> who we believe have one of the simplest and cost effective processes. NICEIC, NAPIT and several others are also listed.

Discuss the Assessment and certification requirements with your chosen Certification body

You will need to understand how they will work with you to gain your Certification and pricing structure.

The assessment itself will examine both the firm (Quality plan, procedures, meeting notes, records etc.) and the first PV installation to confirm the technical competence to carry out PV installation work to the relevant standards.

Many assessors are happy to provide a detailed schedule of their requirements before a date for the assessment is set and will discuss on the phone the detail of your office systems, prior to the visit, to help ensure that you can provide the documentation they are looking for during the audit thus minimising the possibility of non conformances and the need for follow up activities.

The Office based Assessment:

The Microgeneration Installation Standard **MCS001** <http://www.microgenerationcertification.org/ewcommon/tools/download.ashx?docId=9236> details the requirements the installer is required to meet for the office based assessment and provides general information about the assessment process. There are 19 areas that will be examined and WF have produced a pre-audit checklist to help you prepare for this.

The most common non conformances are caused by missing/unavailable paperwork and often these can often be resolved by email without the need for a second visit by the assessor.

Site Visit

The assessor will also visit your 1st installation site to audit your work against the design and procedures for installation, set to work and inspection and test of the system.

Registration

Once the the assessment has been completed successfully you will be notified in writing and will become a registered MCS contractor and be able to use the MCS Mark to promote your registration and your clients will be eligible for Feed in Tariff funds.