

GUIDE TO NEW SOLAR REQUIREMENTS

According to 2015 IRC, effective October 1, 2018

(Add) **R324.7 Access and pathways.** Roof access, pathways and spacing requirements *shall* be provided in accordance with Sections R324.7.1 through R324.7.2.4.

Exception: Detached garages and *accessory structures* to one and *two-family dwellings* and *townhouses*, such as parking shade structures, carports, solar trellises and similar structures.

(Add) **R324.7.1 Roof access points.** Roof access points *shall* be located in areas that do not require the placement of ground ladders over openings such as windows or doors, and located at strong points of *building* construction in locations where the access point does not conflict with overhead obstructions such as tree limbs, wires or signs.

(Add) **R324.7.2 Solar photovoltaic systems.** Solar photovoltaic systems *shall* comply with Sections R324.7.2.1 through R324.7.2.4.

(Add) **R324.7.2.1 Size of solar photovoltaic array.** Each photovoltaic array *shall* be limited to 150 feet by 150 feet (45 720 by 45 720 mm). Multiple arrays *shall* be separated by a clear access pathway not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width.

(Add) **R324.7.2.2 Hip roof layouts.** Panels and modules installed on *dwellings* with hip roof layouts *shall* be located in a manner that provides a clear access pathway not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in width from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels and modules are located. The access pathway *shall* be located at a structurally strong location on the *building* capable of supporting the *live load* of fire fighters accessing the roof.

Exceptions:

1. This requirement *shall* not apply to roofs with slopes of two units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.6 percent) and less.
2. Where panels are installed on only one roof slope and there is clear access on the opposing slope.

(Add) **R324.7.2.3 Single ridge roofs.** Panels and modules installed on *dwellings* with a single ridge *shall* be located in a manner that provides two, 3-foot-wide (914 mm) access pathways from the eave to the ridge on each roof slope where panels or modules are located.

Exceptions:

1. This requirement *shall* not apply to roofs with slopes of two units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.6 percent) and less.
2. Where panels are installed on only one roof slope and there is clear access on the opposing slope.

(Add) **R324.7.2.4 Roofs with hips and valleys.** Panels and modules installed on *dwellings* with roof hips or valleys *shall* not be located less than 18 inches (457 mm) from a hip or valley where panels or modules are to be placed on both sides of a hip or valley. Where panels are to be located on one side only of a hip or valley that is of equal length, the 18-inch (457 mm) clearance does not apply.

Exception: These requirements *shall* not apply to roofs with slopes of two units vertical in 12 units horizontal (16.6 percent) and less.