



## **PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE**

This guide contains information regarding the installation and safe handling of photovoltaic modules made by **AE Alternative Energy GmbH**.

**AE Alternative Energy GmbH** hereafter is referred to as “AE”.

All instructions should be read and understood before installing the modules. The installation of modules should conform to all the safety precautions in this guide when installing the modules. The local standards should also be followed in such installations. If there are any questions, please contact our sales department for further assistance.

Before installing a photovoltaic system, the installer should be familiar with the mechanical and electrical requirements for such a system. Keep this guide in a safe place for future reference (maintenance).

## **SCOPE**

PV modules are ideal for charging storage batteries used to power remote homes, recreational vehicles, boats, telecommunication systems and other electrical applications.

This manual contains important installation, maintenance and safety information. The word “module” as used in this manual refers to one or more PV modules.

AE modules are designed to fulfill the criteria of application class A requirements according to IEC61730-part1.

The modules are qualified for application class A: Hazardous voltage (IEC61730: higher than 50V DC; EN61730: higher than 120V), hazardous

power applications (higher than 240W) where general contact access is anticipated (Modules qualified for safety through EN IEC61730-1 and -2 Within this application class are considered to meet the requirements for Safety Class II).

## **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:**

The installation techniques, handling and use of this product are beyond company control. Therefore, AE does not assume responsibility for loss, damage or expense resulting from improper installation, handling or misuse.

## **GENERAL SAFETY INFORMATION**

Ensure that the module is used only in applications for which it is suitable (see “Installing Modules”). All work on a PV system (installation, setup, maintenance) must be carried out only by appropriately qualified and authorized engineers.

The appropriate DIN standards, construction rules and safety instructions must be followed during installation.

## **WARNING!**

PV modules generate electricity as soon as they are exposed to the sunlight. One module generates the safety extra low volt level, but multiple modules connected in series (summing the voltage) or in parallel (summing the current) represent a danger. The following points must be noticed when handling the solar modules to avoid the risk of fire, sparking and fatal electric shock.

Do not use mirrors or other magnifiers to artificially concentrate sunlight on the modules!



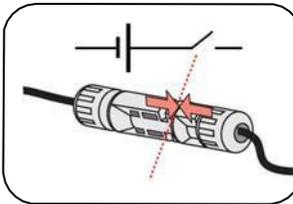
Do not insert any electrically conducting materials into the plugs or sockets!



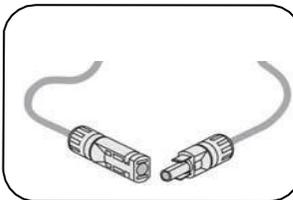
Do not fit solar modules and wiring with wet plugs and sockets!



Make sure to use safety equipment (insulated tools, insulated gloves, etc.) when wiring.



Make sure that we do the connection when the circuitry is cut off. Do not disconnect under load.



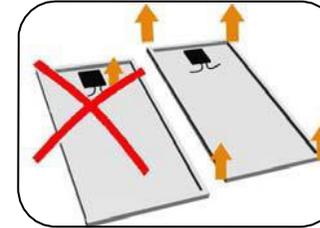
Guarantees the clean connectors has not been polluted, and the electrical connection and the mechanical joint is good, to avoid the generation of electric arc effectively.

### UNPACKING AND STORING MODULES

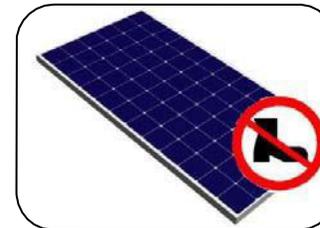
Utmost attention is required when handling the modules. Below marks will be used for some caution items when unpacking, transporting, and storing the modules:



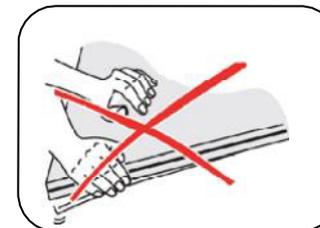
Do not strike and destroy the module.



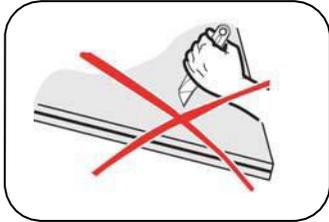
Carry modules with both hands. Do not use the connection socket as a handle; Don't lacerate the frame during handling and installing.



Do not stand on the module.



Do not twist the module.



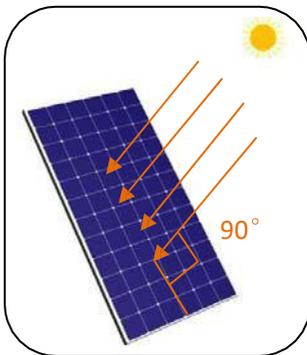
Do not mark on the rear of the module using sharp objects.

### INSTALLING MODULES

Before installing your solar system, contact local authorities to determine the necessary permit, installation and inspection requirements which should be followed.

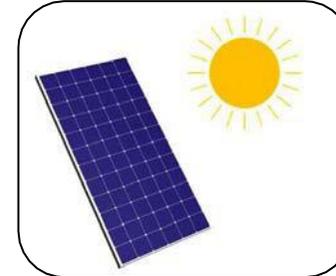
System should be installed by qualified personnel only. The system involves electricity, and can be dangerous if the personnel are not familiar with the appropriate safety procedures.

The PV modules should be mounted in a location where they will receive maximum sunlight throughout the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, the modules should face south. And in the Southern Hemisphere, the modules should face north.

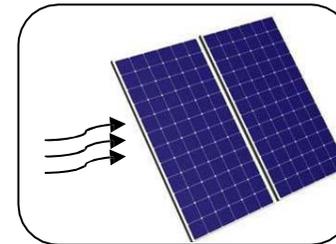


In order to achieve maximum annual yield, optimum orientation and tilt of PV modules is necessary. Sunlight shining vertically onto the PV module is the best condition to generate maximum power.

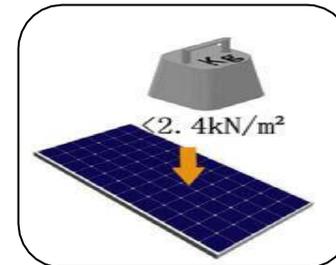
Artificially concentrated sunlight shall not be directed on the module.



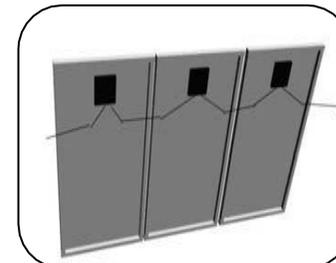
Make sure the module absorb sunlight without any shelter to produce the maximum output.



Keeping good ventilation conditions prevents the modules from getting hot which would reduce the output performance.



The maximum load on module must not exceed  $2.4\text{kN/m}^2$ . Site-specific environment loads such as wind and snow should be taken into account to avoid exceeding the maximum

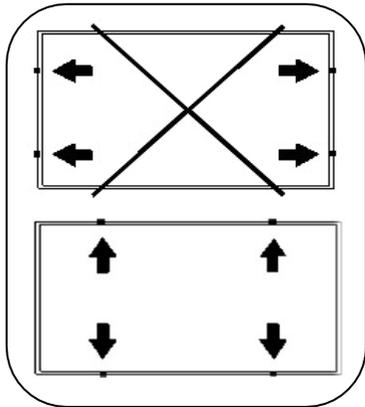


The voltage in series should not exceed the system voltage nominated by manufacturer.

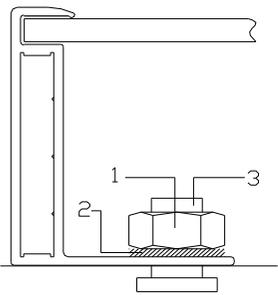
When designing the system, recommended the maximum number of modules in parallel should be no more than four while the maximum number of modules in series no more than fifteen.



The module must not be installed close to fire or flammable materials.



Each module should be fixed at least 4 points on long frame or short frame. The modules are supported parallel to the surface of the building wall or roof. And the assembly is to be mounted over a fire resistant roof covering rated for module's application.



Use the existing installation holes instead of drilling additional holes for installation (Drilling holes shall against the reliability and warranty of the modules). The installation and attachment materials (nuts, bolts, etc) must be corrosion-resistant. Moment of force is 5N • m for module mounting.

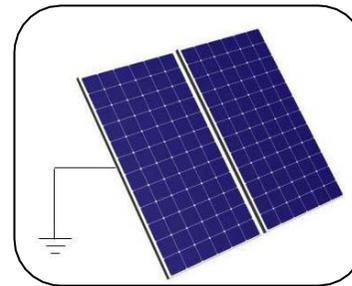
- 1 Stainless steel M8 nut
- 2 Stainless steel spring washer
- 3 Stainless steel M8 t-head bolt

### GROUNDING

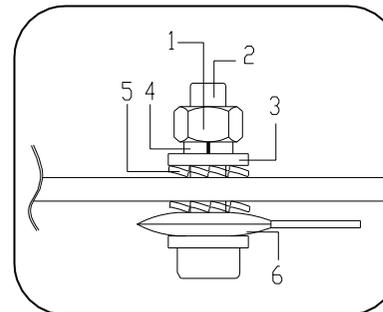
Although the modules are certified to Safety qualification, grounding is nevertheless to be used. The grounded connection must be made by a qualified electrician.

Connect module frames to each other using cables with cable lugs.

All the junctions on the conductive connection must be fixed. Soldering is not required.



- The metallic frames must be grounded according to Article 250 of the U.S. NEC.
- Should provide appropriate engagement through the anodized layer.
- PV system should work with a reliable lightning protection system.



- 1 Stainless steel nut M4
- 2 stainless steel bolt M4 × 30
- 3 stainless steel flat washer M4
- 4 stainless steel spring washer M4
- 5 stainless steel serrated washer M4
- 6 stainless steel slotted washer M4

All ferrous metal in the conductive connection should specially treated, such as by anodization, spray-painting, galvanization. Stainless steel does not need to be treated.

This protection has been punctured by the grounding device to achieve sufficient connection.



The Modules may be installed and fixed with the following methods:

1. Mounting hole installation: (Figure 1)

- 1) Use the corrosion-resistant M8 bolt, a flat washer and a spring washer for fixing with the installation support through the installation hole in the frame of the module, and tighten to a torque of 14~20 N.m.
- 2) The frame of each module has 8-φ9\*12mm mounting holes. The number of mounting holes shall be used according to the load demand.

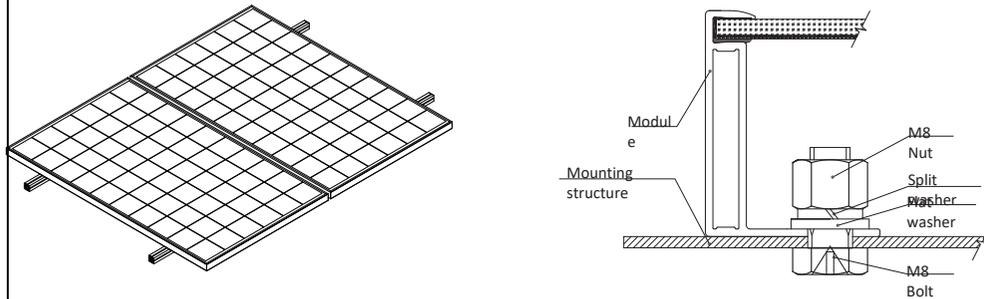


Figure 1 Mounting hole installation

2. Clamping installation: (see figure 2)

- 1) The module must be secured to the supporting rail by the metal clamps which must meet the following conditions or relevant installation system standards.
- 2) It is recommended to use torque of 18~24 N.m.
- 3) Under no circumstances shall the metal clamp touch the front glass of the module or deform the frame in order to avoid the hot spot effect caused by the clamp. The drain holes on the frame shall not be blocked or blocked by clamps.

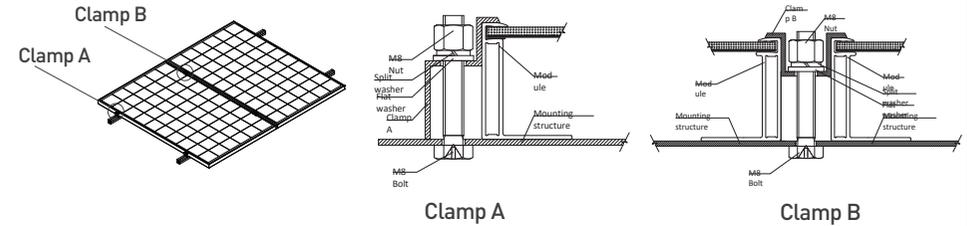


Figure 2 Clamp installation

\*Select the appropriate installation method according to the required mechanical load, as shown in figure 3

	Mounting hole installation	Clamping installation
2400Pa <sub>q</sub> /2400Pa <sub>load</sub>	<p>1/1 Use four mounting holes</p>	<p>2/1 Use four mounting clips</p> <p>Permissible position of clamps</p>
5400Pa <sub>q</sub> /2400Pa <sub>load</sub>	<p>1/2 Use Four or eight mounting holes</p>	<p>2/2 Use four mounting clips</p> <p>Permissible position of clamps</p>

Figure 3 Installation method



## **WIRING**

### **TO ENSURE PROPER WIRING, PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO**

#### **• CORRECT WIRING SCHEME**

When designing the system, avoid forming close loop to minimize risk of an indirect lightning strike. Check that wiring is correct before starting the generator. If the measured open circuit voltage (Uoc) and short-circuit current (Isc) differ from the specifications, then there maybe a wiring fault.

#### **• CORRECT CONNECTION**

The cross section area of cable and the capacity of connector must be selected to suit the maximum system short circuit current (The area of the cable mated with the connector is recommended to be 4~6 mm<sup>2</sup>), otherwise the cable and connector will be overheated under large current. Please note that the upper limit temperature of cable is 120<sup>0</sup>C and the connector is 100<sup>0</sup>C. The ambient temperature range of cable and connector is -40<sup>0</sup>C-90<sup>0</sup>C. The plug connector has its own polarity. Make sure that the connection is safe and tight. The plug connector should not receive outer stress. Connectors should only be used to connect the circuit, but never used to turn the circuit on or off.

#### **• USE OF SUITABLE MATERIALS**

Use cable extensions and plugs that are designed for outdoor applications. Ensure that they are in perfect electrical and mechanical condition. Only the cables with one conductor are used.

Ensure that all materials meet the requirements of the system maximum voltage, current, moisture, and temperature when they expose to sunlight.

Under normal conditions, a photovoltaic module is likely to produce more current and/or voltage than that reported under standard test conditions.

Accordingly, the values of Isc and Voc marked on this module should be multiplied by a factor of 1.25 when selecting electricity components voltage

ratings, conductor capacities, fuse type, and type of control components connected to the PV output.

The maximum series Fuse rating is 10A (module with 5' cells) or 15A (module with 6' cells). And the maximum reverse current is known as series Fuse rating multiplied by a factor of 1.35.

#### **• BYPASS DIODES**

When modules in series are shaded partially, it may cause reverse voltage across cells or modules, this may cause undesirable heating to occur. The use of a diode to bypass the shaded area can minimize both heating and array current reduction.

All AE modules are equipped with factory installed bypass diodes. The factory installed diodes provide proper circuit protection for the system. Rating of bypass diodes: Current 10A; Voltage 50V

#### **• OTHERS**

During installation, be sure to tie the cable from the junction box to the mounting substructure with nylon line, etc. to avoid direct contact of the cable with the back surface of the module.

## **MODULE MOUNTING**

AE`s Limited Warranty for modules is based upon modules being mounted in accordance with following conditions.

### **1) OPERATING CONDITIONS**

AE modules should be mounted under following operating conditions.

- The operating temperature of AE modules should be within -40<sup>0</sup>C (-40<sup>0</sup>F) to 85<sup>0</sup>C(185<sup>0</sup>F).

Ensure adequate ventilation behind the modules in hot environments.



- The module design strength is within 2400Pa, approximately to a wind speed of 125mph.
- The installation place should be less than 1,000m(3,280ft) above sea level. Installation more than 1,000m (3,280ft) is allowed only if the wind pressure load for a module is less than 2,170N/m<sup>2</sup>(45PSF).

## 2) LIMITED CONDITIONS

Installation environment with following conditions should be avoided.

- The installation area with extreme sand and dust damage.
- The installation position with extreme air pollution, chemical vapors, acid rain, and/or soot, etc.
- The installation place with extreme hail and snow damage.
- The installation location with extreme salt damage.

## CHECKLISTS

- All fastenings are tight, secure and free of corrosion.
- All cable connections are secure, tight, clean and free of corrosion.
- Cables are not damaged in any way.
- Verification of the grounding resistivity of metals.

## MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

Do not change the PV components (diode, junction box, plug connectors) that can be serviced by AE authorized distributor or dealer without voiding the warranty.

Given the module a sufficient tilt (at least 15°) to keep one self-clean effect in normal conditions (rainfall will have a self-cleaning effect). When heavy soiling happened on the module (which will result in output reductions), we use a gentle cleaning implement (such as a sponge) and water (from a

hose) without clean agents to rinse the modules. Dried dirt must never be scraped or rubbed, scraping and rubbing module surface will cause micro-scratching. Periodic inspection must be done for the system.

## CONTACT US

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