

County of Maui
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Departmental Policies and Procedures

Subject: PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS,
WIND TURBINES AND WINDMILLS

Procedure No.
DSA 18.0

Effective Date:
1-1-2010

Supersedes Procedure No./Date:
not applicable

Approval Date:
12-09-2009

Page:
1 of 3

I. Purpose

This Policy is to clarify the permitting requirements for Photovoltaic Systems, Wind Turbines, Windmills and similar energy-producing appurtenances.

II. Policy

Energy-producing appurtenances shall comply with electrical and building codes.

III. Procedure (for Photovoltaic Systems Installed on Roofs of Buildings)

- A. An electrical permit is required for the photovoltaic system. An electrical contractors C-13 license is required to obtain the electrical permit.
- B. The application for an electrical permit must include a letter and related forms from an architect or structural engineer licensed in the State of Hawaii verifying that the roof assembly is structurally adequate to support the photovoltaic system to be installed, including the module mounting system. Schematic diagrams showing the photovoltaic system connections, equipment locations and configuration and ratings are also required to be submitted with the electrical permit application. Schematic diagrams for systems rated 30 kilowatts or more are required to be prepared, stamped and signed by a State of Hawaii licensed electrical engineer.
- C. A building permit will not be required for photovoltaic systems if the roof truss system can support the added weight as verified by the licensed architect or structural engineer. If additional structural reinforcing is required to support the system, a building permit will be required.
- D. The electrical contractor shall be responsible for the design and installation of the photovoltaic system. Acceptable industry standards shall be utilized by the electrical contractor.
- E. If the licensed architect or structural engineer determines that the existing roof is unable to support the photovoltaic system, then a building permit will be required to strengthen the roof structure prior to the issuance of the electrical permit. Plans submitted for a building permit are required to be stamped by an architect or structural engineer licensed the State of Hawaii.
- F. A photovoltaic system is allowed to be installed on a building exempt from a building permit. MCC, 16.26.106.2 exemption 1 & 16; however photovoltaic systems will not be allowed on structures that were illegally constructed without a required building permit.

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Effective Date: 1-1-2010	Supersedes Procedure No./Date: not applicable	Approval Date: 12-09-2009	Page: 2 of 3

IV. Procedure (for Free Standing Photovoltaic Systems)

- A. A building permit and an electrical permit are required for a free standing photovoltaic system.
- B. Plans submitted for building permit shall include a site plan, foundation plan, elevations, framing plans and structural details, and module mounting details. All plans are required to be scaled and detailed.
- C. Plans shall be stamped by an architect or structural engineer licensed in the State of Hawaii.
- D. A C-13 licensed electrical contractor is required to apply for the electrical permit. The electrical contractor is required to submit a schematic diagram showing the photovoltaic system connections, equipment configuration and ratings with the electrical permit application. Schematic diagrams for systems rated 30 kilowatts or more are required to be prepared, stamped and signed by a State of Hawaii licensed electrical engineer.

V. Procedure (for Wind Turbines and Windmills Installed on Buildings)

- A. A building permit and an electrical permit are required for wind turbines mounted on buildings.
- B. Plans submitted for building permit shall include a site plan, floor plan, elevations, cross section, framing plans and structural details, mounting details, and manufactures specifications. All plans are required to be scaled and detailed.
- C. Plans submitted for a building permit shall be stamped by an architect or structural engineer licensed in the State of Hawaii.
- D. Plans submitted for an electrical permit shall include a site plan, floor/roof plans, electrical schematic diagrams and details showing the electrical equipment locations, ratings and connections. Drawings for systems rated 30 kilovolt amperes (KVA) or more are required to be prepared, stamped and signed by a State of Hawaii licensed electrical engineer.

VI. Procedure (for Free Standing Ground Mounted Wind Turbines and Windmills)

- A. A building permit and an electrical permit are required for free standing ground mounted wind turbines.
- B. Plans submitted for building permit shall include a site plan, foundation plan, elevation, structural details, mounting details, and manufactures specifications. All plans are required to be scaled and detailed.

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Effective Date: 1-1-2010	Supersedes Procedure No./Date: not applicable	Approval Date: 12-09-2009	Page: 3 of 3

- VI. Procedure (for Free Standing Ground Mounted Wind Turbines and Windmills)
- C. Plans submitted for a building permit shall be stamped by an architect or structural engineer licensed in the State of Hawaii.
 - D. Plans submitted for an electrical permit shall include a site plan and electrical schematic diagrams and details showing the electrical equipment locations, ratings and connections. Drawings for systems rated 30 kilovolt amperes (KVA) or more are required to be prepared, stamped and signed by a State of Hawaii licensed electrical engineer.

VII. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Development Services Administration to implement this policy and these procedures.

VIII. Scope

These procedures apply to Development Services Administration employees who are involved in the administration and enforcement of the electrical and building codes.



Director of Public Works