



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
(POWER DIVISION)  
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD



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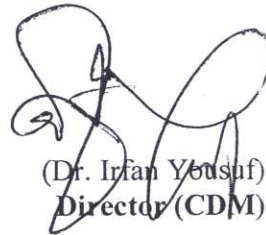
19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Mr. Muhammad Ashraf  
Director General (Trade & Policy)  
Commerce Division, Ministry of Commerce & Textile  
Islamabad

Subject: **Implementation of Quality Standards on Import of Solar PV Equipment**

This is with reference to meeting convened in the Ministry of Commerce, duly chaired by the DG (T&P), Commerce Division on August 5, 2019 with stakeholders to address the concerns of the importers arising as a result of issuance of SRO 604(I)/2019, dated 28.05.2019 (SRO 604).

2. During the above referred meeting, AEDB was tasked to prepare a process flow elaborating steps to be taken for import and clearance of the items under SRO 604 in consultation with private sector companies and submit it to Ministry of Commerce by Friday, August 09, 2019. Accordingly, AEDB has prepared a process flow in consultation with representatives from Solar Quality Foundation (SQF), Renewable and Alternative Energy Association of Pakistan (REAP), Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The same is attached herewith for review and further necessary action at the end of Commerce Division.



(Dr. Irfan Yusuf)  
Director (CDM)

Cc:

1. Joint Secretary (Development), Power Division, Ministry of Energy, Islamabad
2. PS to CEO, AEDB, Islamabad

# PROCESS FLOW FOR IMPORT OF SOLAR PV EQUIPMENT IN PAKISTAN

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Prepared by: Alternative Energy Development Board, in consultation with representatives from Solar Quality Foundation (SQF), Renewable and Alternative Energy Association of Pakistan (REAP), Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).



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The Federal Government of Pakistan vide SRO 604 604(I)/2019, dated May 28, 2019 (“SRO 604”) issued amendments in the Import Policy Order, 2016 (“IPO”). The purpose of issuance of the SRO 604 was to adopt international standards for import of solar PV equipment irrespective of the country/source of origin and uniform applicability of the standards all over the country. Subsequent to issuance of this SRO 604, the importers/vendors requested Ministry of Commerce to issue a process flow that would define steps that are needed to be followed while importing solar PV equipment for uniformity and better understanding. This document provides process flow that the importers/vendors would have to follow for the import of equipment related to solar PV systems from abroad as per SRO 604.

## 1. DEFINITIONS:

- **Accredited Agency:** An agency, accredited by an Accreditation Body in accordance with the relevant standards (ISO/IEC 17065 for conformance and ISO/IEC 17020 for pre-shipment inspection) having competence to test and certify third parties, behave ethically, employ suitable quality assurance and its practices are acceptable.
- **Accreditation Body:** An agency / organization, operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011, that provides accreditation services for accreditation of entities including Accredited Agencies and Accredited Laboratories.
- **Accredited Laboratory:** A laboratory, accredited by an Accreditation Body in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17025, having technical competence to perform specific types of testing, measurement and calibration.
- **Certificate of Conformity:** A document, certified and issued by an Accredited Agency at the Port of Origin, necessarily be a third party, that the supplied good or service meets the required specifications.
- **Country of Export:** Place from where the shipment is exported to destination.
- **Port of Origin:** Place where a shipment actually originated (began its journey towards its destination).
- **Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate:** A document, certified and issued by an Accredited Agency at the Port of Origin or Country of Export, necessarily be a third party, that provides inspection of contract goods prior to shipment so as to ascertain their quality, quantity and price.
- **Type Test Certificate:** A document, certified and issued by an Accredited Laboratory, that can be located either at the Country of Origin or anywhere else, that provides the verification of all the rated characteristics of the equipment as assigned by the manufacturer, by means of the performance of all type tests specified by the international standards.

## 2. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY OF THE PROCESS FLOW

The scope of process flow stated herein is limited and applicable to the products stated in the SRO 604 i.e. solar PV panels<sup>1</sup>, inverters, charge controllers, junction boxes<sup>2</sup>, cables and standalone solar products including solar kits, solar water pumps, solar water heaters and solar cookers. The importers/vendors are required to read this process flow together with the SRO 604 and relevant provisions of the IPO for better understanding and compliance to the requirements stated therein.

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<sup>1</sup> Since there are no standards for manufacturing solar PV cells, therefore provisions of SRO 604 should not be implemented on import of solar PV cells for manufacturing/assembly of solar PV panels.

<sup>2</sup> It is clarified that these junction boxes are standalone external boxes as described by the HS Code, these are used for connecting solar PV panels to inverters as external product, these are not part of solar PV panels itself. The junctions boxes imported as part for manufacturing solar PV panels do not fall under this category. Therefore, provisions of SRO 604 should not be applicable to those junctions boxes imported as part for manufacturing solar PV panels.

