Roof Mounted Photovoltaic Systems Residential Installation Standards

Roof Access, Walking Pathways, and Spacing Criteria

Roof access points.
- Shall be located in areas that do not require the placement of ground ladders over openings such as windows or doors,
- Located at strong points of building construction locations
- Where the access point does not conflict with overhead obstructions such as tree limbs, wires or signs.

Hip roof layouts.
- Panels and modules 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.
- 18" of access pathway required at the top of ridge/hip where someone can stand on opposite roof plane.
- 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.

Single ridge roofs.
- Panels and modules 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.
- A single shed roof must provide 36" access pathway along the top of the roof.

Roofs with hips and valleys.
- Panels and modules 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.

Exceptions
- Detached, non-habitable Group U Occupancies
- Roof Structures with a slope of less than 2:12
- Panels may be placed adjacent to the roof ridge if an alternate fire-fighting smoke ventilation method is approved by the Building Official.

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