UK Government

Plug-in solar: Regulatory amendment and interim product specification

Government Response

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2026)

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Contents

Executive Summary

Context

On 24 March 2026, the government announced its intention to enable the safe use of plug-in solar devices as part of the wider Clean Power 2030 mission and its work to help households reduce energy bills.

What it is

Plug-in solar devices are small solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that generate electricity for use in the home. They are designed to be simpler and lower cost than traditional rooftop solar installations and can be used by consumers who may not be able to install conventional solar panels, including some people living in rented accommodation, flats, or properties without suitable roof space.

Unlike traditional rooftop solar, plug-in solar devices are intended to be connected through a standard household socket, subject to the device meeting the relevant safety requirements and the consumer following appropriate guidance. The proposals considered in this consultation relate only to plug-in solar devices without batteries. They do not extend to plug-in batteries or other forms of plug-in microgeneration.

Plug-in solar devices are already widely used throughout several European countries, including Germany, Spain and the Netherlands. In Great Britain, however, the current regulatory framework does not enable plug-in solar devices to be used in the same way.

What we consulted on

On 16 June 2026, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero published a consultation seeking views on proposed UK-wide amendments to The Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (PSSR) and on the Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification (IPS).

The proposed PSSR amendments are narrow in scope. They would create a route for approving standard plugs intended for use with a plug-in solar microgenerator where the plug complies with all relevant BS 1363 requirements. These BS 1363 plugs cannot currently be approved because BS 1363 prohibits the use of plugs for connecting electricity-generating devices to socket-outlets.

The IPS was also consulted on; it sets out safety requirements relevant to that approval route. In practice, this means the route is limited to standard plugs intended for use with compliant plug-in solar devices and does not extend to other plug-in technologies, such as plug-in batteries.

The consultation was accompanied by an independent electrical safety study, commissioned by the department, and a supporting analytical annex. It was supplemented by targeted workshops and bilateral engagement with manufacturers, retailers, insurers, standards bodies, regulators and consumer groups.

What we did not consult on

The consultation did not seek views on amendments to the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR). The IPS is relevant under the wider ESQCR framework, as to whether plug-in solar devices themselves can be connected and used. The PSSR amendments should therefore be understood as creating a narrow approval route for standard plugs, rather than as directly requiring plug-in solar devices themselves to comply with the specification.

What we heard

The department received 466 responses across the 17 consultation questions from a broad range of stakeholders, including electricity suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, trade bodies, electricians, engineers, the fire service, academics, consultancies, housing and residents' associations, and private individuals. We are grateful to all respondents for their contributions.

A clear majority of respondents supported the proposals. Eighty-five percent of respondents agreed with the proposed IPS. A majority also supported the proposed PSSR amendments, with many seeing them as a practical and proportionate transitional measure to support the safe deployment of plug-in solar.

Respondents recognised the potential for plug-in solar devices to help households reduce electricity costs, widen access to renewable generation for people who cannot install rooftop solar, and support the Clean Power 2030 mission.

Respondents also raised concerns. These included the risk of non-compliant imported products being sold through online marketplaces, the suitability of wiring in older homes, the possibility that the PSSR amendment could be misinterpreted as applying to plug-in batteries or other technologies, and the need for clear consumer-facing information before purchase and use. A minority of respondents opposed the BS 1363 route on technical grounds, and a small number supported a professional installation-only model.

Government response

Having considered the evidence and consultation responses, the government intends to proceed with the proposed PSSR amendments and the IPS, with targeted refinements to the specification in response to issues raised during the consultation.

The final IPS will include strengthened requirements to support safe consumer use, including clearer information on product scope, installation, circuit identification, mounting, Engineering Recommendation G98 notification requirements, prohibited uses, and circumstances where professional advice should be sought.

Additionally, the department will work with stakeholders to ensure that clear and easy to understand consumer guidance is available ahead of the regulations coming into force. This will support consumers, retailers, manufacturers and online marketplaces to understand the requirements and support the safe use of compliant plug-in solar devices.

Together, the proposed PSSR amendments and the IPS support the government's approach to enabling consumers to use compliant plug-in solar devices safely, while ensuring that the approval route remains limited to plug-in solar and does not extend to other technologies such as plug-in batteries.

Next steps

The amendments to the PSSR will be taken forward alongside publication of the final IPS and the development of consumer guidance. The department will also continue to work with devolved governments, regulators, standards bodies, retailers and online marketplaces as implementation proceeds. Work will begin on the development of longer-term standards to succeed the IPS.

Introduction

Overview

The government is committed to enabling households to benefit from clean, home-grown energy at the lowest possible cost. Plug-in solar devices, small solar photovoltaic (PV) systems designed to be connected directly to a standard UK mains socket, offer a low-cost, easy-to-install route for consumers to generate their own electricity and lower their energy bills. However, at present these products cannot be sold or used lawfully in the United Kingdom, as they do not currently comply with the Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (PSSR) or the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR).

On 24 March 2026, the government announced its intention to make plug-in solar devices available within months, so that households can access the benefits of this technology quickly and safely. To deliver this commitment, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) consulted on proposals to enable the safe use of plug-in solar devices in the United Kingdom.

The proposed legislation refers to these products as "plug-in microgenerators". For the purpose of the consultation, this term is used to refer specifically to plug-in solar devices (without storage batteries) that are designed to be connected directly to a standard UK mains socket and operate alongside the electricity network.

DESNZ consulted on proposed UK-wide amendments to the Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 and on the Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification. The consultation launched on 16 June 2026 and closed on 30 June 2026.

The consultation sought views on:

- proposed amendments to the PSSR; and
- the introduction of an interim product specification for plug-in solar.

Amendments to the Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994

The consultation sought views on proposed UK-wide amendments to the Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (PSSR). The proposed amendments were narrow in scope and would allow standard plugs used with plug-in solar microgenerators to be approved where they comply with the relevant BS 1363 requirements but cannot be approved solely because BS 1363 restricts the use of plugs for connecting electricity-generating devices to socket-outlets.

The proposed amendments would:

- create a narrow approval route for standard plugs intended for use with plug-in solar microgenerators;
- ensure that this route is limited to plugs that meet the relevant safety requirements; and
- support consistency with the wider product safety and electrical safety framework.

Interim product specification for plug-in solar

The consultation also sought views on the Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification (IPS), while enduring standards for plug-in solar devices are developed. The IPS would:

- set out technical and safety requirements relevant to compliant plug-in solar devices during the transitional period;
- provide manufacturers, retailers and consumers with clarity on the requirements expected of plug-in solar devices before enduring standards are in place; and
- support the safe use of compliant plug-in solar devices with existing domestic electrical infrastructure.

As well as the design, scope and content of the proposed PSSR amendments and the IPS, the consultation also sought views on their practical implementation and interaction with relevant regulatory frameworks.

Engagement

On the day the consultation was launched (16 June 2026) the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Minister for Energy Consumers hosted a round table event with retailers to hear their views on launching plug-in solar in UK shops.

Additionally, to support stakeholders' understanding of the consultation proposals, DESNZ officials hosted an online webinar (technical workshop) on 24 June. This technical workshop was attended by 45 stakeholders, and enabled officials to gather evidence on both the practical implications of the proposed amendments to the PSSR and the IPS.

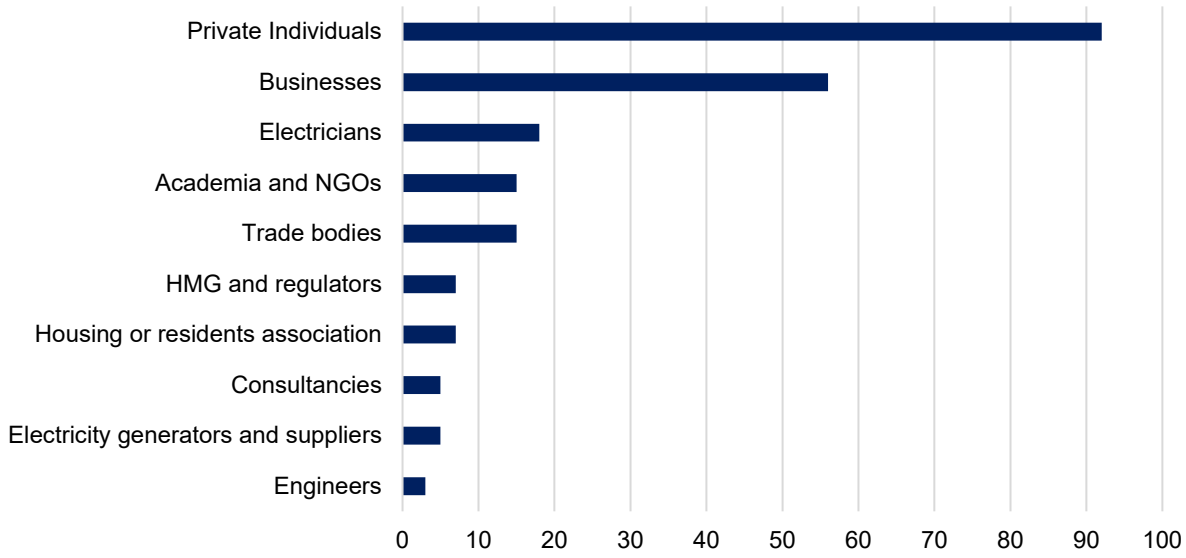
DESNZ officials also hosted a range of other stakeholder events, including:

- A round table event on the 20 May (prior to the consultation launch) attended by 27 retailers and manufacturers;
- A meeting with insurance providers;
- Further meetings with the building industry, the fire service, insurance companies and housing industry representatives; and
- Wider government engagement.

Responses

The consultation was published on GOV.UK and ran from 16 June to 30 June 2026. The consultation received 466 responses in total. These responses were submitted through an online portal (Citizen Space, 420 responses) and by email (46 responses). Figure 1 provides a breakdown of respondents by type. The government is grateful to all respondents to the consultation for taking the time to submit their views.

Figure 1. Bar chart showing responses for consultation question: "What is your organisation?", excluding blank, "prefer not to say" and "n/a" responses. A total of 223 respondents answered this question, and 243 respondents did not answer this question, or replied "prefer not to say" or "n/a".



All consultation responses have been considered as part of policy development, although for brevity the government has not commented on all responses individually. Furthermore, where an issue raised by respondents is addressed, the response will not be repeated when the same issue is raised in response to other questions. The detail of our analytical approach is set out in Annex A.

In summarising the responses received to each question, the following approach was used to classify the proportion of respondents who expressed a view:

- 81–100% – Most respondents
- 61–80% – A majority of respondents
- 53–60% – Just over half of respondents
- 48–52% – Around half of respondents
- 41–47% – Just under half of respondents
- 21–40% – A minority of respondents
- 1–20% – A small proportion of respondents

This is consistent with the approach used for other UK government consultation responses. When considering this summary of responses, please also note that:

- Due to the large volume of responses received, this summary does not seek to exhaustively capture all views expressed, but rather to summarise the prevalent themes and particularly notable points of feedback.
- Respondents used either an online response form or sent in their responses by email.
- Not all respondents answered every question. Some only chose to address specific questions, so the number of responses each question received varied significantly. We have noted the number of responses each question received in brackets; this number excludes those who did not answer the question. However, for multiple choice questions, it includes those who answered "Not sure" as this could be a mark of sentiment in response to specific questions and therefore provides a fuller picture of the results.
- Where questions were multiple choice, we have provided a summary of this data at the beginning of the response for each question.

Next Steps

In the sections that follow we have detailed our response to comments made by consultation respondents, including our next steps (see the "Government Response" section which follows the "Summary of Responses" for each question). In the Technical Annex we have also set out our how we have incorporated consultation responses into the IPS, and our next actions going forward.

The proposals that are being taken forward will be progressed through the most appropriate means. The government intends to lay a Statutory Instrument (SI) before Parliament very shortly after the publication of this consultation, which will incorporate amendments to the PSSR (as outlined in this consultation) and the ESQCR. The revised IPS, incorporating feedback from this consultation, will be published alongside the SI.

Government recognises the importance of clear guidance for consumers. We also recognise the importance of helping consumers understand how compliant products should be used safely, including the risks of connecting multiple devices to the same circuit or using non-compliant products. We will work with retailers and other stakeholders and partner organisations to support clear, easy-to-understand consumer communications and guidance which will be available when the amendments to the PSSR and ESQCR come into force.

The government will continue to work towards launching plug-in solar devices in UK retail, with the appropriate safety framework and consumer support, offering households a low-cost, self-install route to generating their own electricity and reducing their energy bills.

Section A: PSSR Amendments

Overview

This chapter summarises the responses to Questions A.1 to A.5 of the consultation. These questions considered the proposed amendments to the PSSR.

Questions A.1 and A.2 specifically focused on whether the proposed approach to amend PSSR to allow plug-in solar to connect via a BS 1363 plug is suitable, and sufficiently clear that it would only apply to plug-in solar devices. Questions A.3 and A.4 sought to explore the potential risks and safety concerns associated with allowing plug-in solar, both in its intended use case and in the case of misuse. Question A.5 explored options to explore the clarity and enforceability of the proposed approach for manufacturers, suppliers, retailers and consumers.

Most respondents showed strong support for the proposed amendments to the PSSR, with 88% of respondents agreeing that allowing plug-in solar devices to connect via a BS 1363 plug is a practical and proportionate transitional measure and 76% agreeing that it was sufficiently clear that these changes only apply to plug-in solar devices. Respondents typically felt the change would regularise an existing grey market, accelerate the UK's adoption of clean energy, and bring the UK into line with comparable European countries, such as Germany. A majority considered that connection via a standard plug raised no safety concerns beyond those already addressed by the IPS, though a minority pointed to residual risks around older domestic wiring, residual-current device (RCD) compatibility, and consumer misuse.

Views were more mixed on the risk of misinterpretation or misuse, with around a third of respondents identifying concerns, most commonly that the amendment could be read as applying to other plug-in devices, that consumers might overload circuits with multiple units, and that non-compliant products could enter the market. Suggested mitigations centred on tighter drafting of the amendment language, clear labelling and guidance, and robust market surveillance. Overall, most respondents considered the proposed approach clear and enforceable, although some questioned the practical difficulty of policing consumer installation and online or second-hand sales.

Section A Question 1:

Summary of Responses

Question A.1 (447 responses) sought views on whether respondents agreed with the proposed approach of amending the PSSR to allow plug-in solar to connect via a BS 1363 plug as a transitional measure pending any future changes to BS 1363?

For this question 88% of respondents replied “Yes”, 7% respondents replied “No” and 4% replied “Not sure”.

- Most respondents agreed with the approach, feeling that it provides a practical and proportionate solution that enables consumers to benefit from plug-in solar technology without unnecessary delay.
- Around half of respondents felt that waiting for a full revision of BS 1363 could significantly postpone the adoption of a technology that can help reduce household energy costs and support wider decarbonisation objectives.
- A majority of respondents noted that many EU states are ahead of the UK in installing plug-in solar. An example of a typical response was: “The UK is way behind other countries in this… Germany which has a similar climate to us is way ahead in allowing apartment owners to use balcony to plug in solar set ups”.
- Just under half of respondents felt that the PSSR amendment would help to regularise the existing market. A small proportion commented that the current situation, where plug-in solar devices are widely available online but technically illegal to sell, is worse for consumer safety than a regulated market with clear standards.
- Around half of respondents felt that the availability of plug-in solar devices would greatly accelerate the adoption and use of clean energy in the UK, whilst at the same time support people who are struggling with their energy bills.
- On the issue of safety, a majority of respondents felt that the PSSR amendments would allow the safe use of plug-in solar devices via means of a standard BS 1363 plug. However, a small proportion of respondents felt that plug-in solar could only be considered safe if it were installed by a qualified electrician.

Government Response

The government welcomes the strong support for the proposed amendment and agrees that a targeted amendment to the PSSR is a practical and proportionate transitional measure for enabling compliant plug-in solar devices to be placed on the market.

The amendment creates a narrowly defined route for compliant plug-in solar devices only and will operate alongside the IPS, which sets out the technical and safety requirements products must meet. The independent electrical safety study considered representative UK domestic electrical arrangements, including ring final circuits (a circuit wired in a loop from and back to the consumer unit through multiple plug sockets), and found no evidence that appropriately designed plug-in solar devices would be intrinsically unsafe when connected via a BS 1363 plug and socket arrangement and used as intended.

The government recognises that some respondents would prefer mandatory inspections, professional installation or dedicated circuits with their own wiring and circuit breaker. However, we do not consider these requirements proportionate for this category of low-power product or consistent with the approach taken in other countries. We will continue to work with industry, standards bodies and safety stakeholders as longer-term standards are developed.

Section A Question 2:

Summary of Responses

Question A.2 (419 responses) sought views on whether respondents thought that the proposed approach was sufficiently clear that the update would only apply to plug-in solar devices which meet the IPS. Where this was not the case, respondents were asked to set out any potential amendments that could provide further clarity.

For this question, 79% of respondents replied “Yes”, 12% of respondents replied “No” and 8% replied “Not sure”.

- A majority of respondents felt that the proposed approach was sufficiently clear, with many stating that limiting the amendment to products that meet the IPS provides a clear boundary for the use of plug-in solar devices.
- Several respondents stated that the link between the PSSR amendment and the IPS provides a clear mechanism for limiting the exemption to compliant plug-in solar devices.
- Many respondents called for clearer drafting and stronger references to the IPS. Common suggestions included explicitly referencing the IPS in legislation, specifying the applicable version of it, and making compliance with it an explicit condition of the exemption. Respondents argued that these changes would help reduce the risk of misinterpretation by manufacturers, suppliers, retailers and consumers, whilst making the scope of the exemption clearer.
- A number of respondents who provided detailed comments raised concerns about potential consumer confusion. Many highlighted the risk that consumers could interpret the amendment as permitting the connection of any solar PV product with a UK plug, rather than only devices that fully comply with the IPS. A typical view was that consumers may struggle to distinguish compliant and non-compliant products without clear guidance, product labelling or other visible indicators.
- Many respondents supported the introduction of compliance markings, labels, or approved product lists. Respondents suggested that a clear conformity mark or approved product list would help suppliers, retailers, consumers and enforcement bodies identify products that fall within the scope of the amendment.
- Many respondents commented on the exclusion of battery storage systems from the scope of the proposal. Some respondents argued that battery-integrated plug-in solar devices should be included within the framework, while others accepted their exclusion and argued that the legislation and associated guidance should more clearly state that battery storage and hybrid solar-battery products remain outside of scope in order to avoid misunderstanding.

Government Response

The government agrees that clarity of scope is essential. The framework is intended to apply only to compliant plug-in solar devices that meet the requirements of the IPS and is not intended to permit battery storage systems, portable generators, or wider categories of plug-connected generation equipment.

In response to consultation feedback, the final legislative drafting and IPS will clearly define the products within scope of this amendment (plug-in solar devices only) and how those products would be required to meet the specification. The IPS has been amended to require products to include a declaration of compliance and products will be listed on the Energy Networks Association (ENA) G98 Type Test Register. The government will also work with stakeholders to ensure that clear and easy to understand consumer guidance is available when the Statutory Instrument to amend to PSSR and ESQCR comes into force.

The government recognises stakeholder interest in battery-integrated products; these are outside of the scope of this consultation.

Section A Question 3:

Summary of Responses

Question A.3 (409 responses) sought views on whether allowing connection via a standard plug raise any specific safety concerns that are not addressed by the IPS.

A total of 22% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 71% replied “No” and 8% replied “Not sure”.

- Most respondents had no safety concerns that were not addressed in the IPS. Many respondents noted that the precedent set in Germany demonstrated the safety of the technology, and that low wattage and anti-islanding protections, that force the device to shut off if it does not detect that it is connected to the wider electricity grid, were sufficient to enable rollout of the technology.
- A minority of respondents raised concerns relating to technical system risks, including that older wiring in the UK housing stock may be unsafe, ring circuits run the risk of overload, protection devices may be insufficient for feeding power into circuitry, and that surge protections may be unsuitable.
- A small number of respondents noted particular concerns around some existing domestic electrical installations being unsuitable for plug-in solar devices in several ways. These include potential incompatibility with existing protective devices, including the potential for their effectiveness to be reduced, or the absence of recommended electrical protection on certain circuits.
- A small number of respondents noted associated building risks, including panels installed on balconies or walls in multiple-occupancy buildings posing a risk of fire, concerns of

poorly mounted panels falling off, and of lack of communication clarifying the split of responsibilities between landlords and occupiers.

- A small number of respondents also noted consumer misuse or misunderstanding of the technology as a key risk not addressed by a product specification, whether through misuse of extension leads and adaptors, unsafe installation of multiple generating units, tampering with products and plugs, ignoring instructions and/or misusing outdoor sockets.
- A small number of respondents noted some product safety issues that they felt were not sufficiently addressed in the IPS, including the risk posed by live plug pins; non-compliant imports from overseas; the BS 1363 plug being inadequate for use with the product; and concerns that the testing had been insufficient ahead of bringing plug-in solar devices to market.
- A small number of respondents proposed a mechanism for mitigating and assuring against these risks. Suggestions included mandatory inspection of installations; requirement for installation by qualified electricians; ensuring adequate consumer guidance and labelling; oversight of the retail market for products; appropriate standards and regulation; and options on a need for registration of installations.

Government Response

A few respondents identified safety concerns beyond those already addressed by the IPS . We recognise concerns raised by some respondents regarding older wiring, RCDs, ring final circuits, mounting arrangements, consumer misuse and non-compliant products.

These issues have been considered carefully: the electrical safety study informed the development of the IPS , including requirements relating to anti-islanding, output limitation, residual DC current, electromagnetic compatibility, product testing and consumer information.

In response to consultation feedback, the IPS has also been strengthened. In particular, it now includes measures intended to reduce risk with older electrical installations including limits on residual DC current, clearer requirements for consumer guidance on protective devices, including how to identify that they are suitable and verify that they are functioning correctly, and additional provisions on mounting and installation instructions.

Section A Question 4:

Summary of Responses

Question A.4 (430 responses) sought views on whether there were risks of misinterpretation and misuse arising from the proposed update.

A total of 35% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 49% replied “No”, and 16% replied “Not sure”.

- The most common issues raised by respondents related to the scope of the amendment, the potential misuse of plug-in solar devices (either inadvertently or intentionally), and to non-compliant products.
- Many respondents said the PSSR amendment could be misinterpreted to apply to plug-in devices other than plug-in solar (such as plug-in batteries). Suggested mitigations focused on the language of the amendment, such as very narrow product definition and referencing the IPS directly in the PSSR amendment to give manufacturers clear parameters when bringing new products to market; not using the word “microgenerator” in the update, and clear guidance for consumers on the scope of the update. A small proportion of respondents advocated for expanding the scope to include plug-in solar devices with integrated battery storage, plug-in batteries, and other plug-in generation.
- The most common specific risk mentioned was consumers plugging multiple devices into the same circuit. A minority of respondents pointed out that many people will not know how to determine if sockets are on separate circuits, but they were split as to whether consumers could determine this safely or not. Several respondents suggested limiting plug-in solar devices to one per household, some mentioned professional inspection should be mandatory, and others said that some people are likely to ignore guidance anyway.
- A minority of respondents highlighted several other specific risks relating to consumer misuse, either through misunderstanding or ignoring guidance. Many respondents who raised these risks suggested prominent warning labels and clear instructions in plain English (and other languages) could reduce, but not eliminate, these risks. Several respondents noted that some people will always ignore guidance, although they were split as to whether this was a reason to not allow consumer-installed plug-in solar devices at all.
- Several respondents raised the risk of non-compliant products creating electrical, fire, and physical safety risks, and suggested a range of mitigations. These include mandatory compliance markings, including using existing trusted product safety markings or creating a new dedicated marking, and strict enforcement of penalties for manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, and online marketplaces with non-compliant products.

Government Response

We recognise the importance of ensuring that the regulatory changes are not misinterpreted as applying to technologies outside the scope of the proposals, including plug-in batteries, hybrid technologies or other forms of plug-in microgeneration.

The final framework will clearly distinguish plug-in solar devices from other technologies. Government recognises the importance of clear, accessible guidance of clear and easy to understand guidance for consumers. We also recognise the importance to help consumers understand how compliant products should be used safely, including the risks of connecting multiple devices to the same circuit or using non-compliant products.

We will work with retailers and other stakeholders and partner organisations to support clear, easy-to-understand consumer communications and guidance to mitigate risks of consumer misuse which will be available when the amendments to the PSSR and ESQCR come into force.

Section A Question 5:

Summary of Responses

Question A.5 (414 responses) sought views on whether the proposed approach was clear and enforceable for manufacturers, retailers and regulators.

A total of 76% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 13% replied “No” and 11% replied “Not sure”.

- Where additional reasoning was supplied, respondents who agreed felt the proposed approach was clear for manufacturers suppliers and retailers. Respondents favoured speeding up implementation, citing the existing European precedent, and were confident that the market would comply, provided that standards were clear and easy to understand.
- A small number of respondents suggested implementing a kitemark or logo scheme to support easy identification of compliant products, and some suggested waiving the G98 distribution network operator (DNO) notification requirement.
- Most respondents who disagreed with the approach felt that consumer installation would be impossible to enforce, and that online and/or second-hand sales would be difficult to regulate.
- A few respondents noted that the requirement for manufacturer-provided structural calculations for mounting did not have precedent in European markets and was likely to be unenforceable.

Government Response

Products placed on the market will continue to be subject to existing product safety legislation and associated enforcement arrangements. The government is not introducing new enforcement powers or a separate enforcement regime through these proposals.

In response to consultation feedback, the IPS has been refined to support clarity, traceability and consumer confidence. This includes requirements relating to ENA Type Test Register identification, declarations of compliance with the IPS, and retention of technical evidence demonstrating compliance.

The government does not currently consider mandatory third-party certification or professional inspection to be proportionate for this product category. However, we recognise the importance

of clear information to help manufacturers, retailers, consumers and enforcement authorities understand whether products meet the relevant requirements.

The ENA Type Test Register is expected to provide a route for identifying products that have completed the relevant testing and registration process. The consumer guidance we will develop with stakeholders will signpost consumers and retailers to relevant information so they can identify compliant plug-in solar devices.

We will continue to work with regulators, enforcement bodies, retailers, suppliers, online marketplaces and other stakeholders to support awareness of the requirements and the safe use of compliant plug-in solar devices within the existing product safety and market surveillance framework.

Section B: Proposal: Interim Product Specification

Overview

This chapter summarises the responses to Questions B.1 to B.7 of the consultation. These questions considered the proposed IPS, which sets out the minimum technical standards that plug-in solar devices would need to meet to be lawfully supplied and connected to the grid in the UK.

Questions B.1 and B.2 focused on the overarching approach: whether manufacturer compliance with an interim product specification should be required before a plug-in solar device could be placed on the market, and whether it was appropriate to use the German standard (DIN VDE 0126-95) with amendments for the UK approach as a baseline. Questions B.3, B.4 and B.5 explored the technical content of the specification, seeking views on whether the engineering controls were proportionate to the risks, whether the specification addressed all the points raised in the safety study commissioned by DESNZ, and whether any elements of the existing technical standards quoted were unsuitable for the UK context or inappropriate for plug-in solar devices. Question B.6 considered a specific design question raised by the electrical safety study, namely whether the specification should limit the number of microinverters to one per household or one per household circuit. Question B.7 invited views on any wider risks or unintended consequences that should be considered in implementing the IPS.

Responses to these questions showed strong support for the proposed IPS, with 85% of respondents agreeing that manufacturer compliance should be required before a product can be placed on the market and 86% supporting the use of the German standard as a baseline to speed up rollout and support international harmonisation. A majority (68%) also considered the engineering controls to be proportionate to the risks, and half were satisfied that the existing technical standards referenced were suitable for the UK context, with the main concerns focused on UK ring circuits, older consumer units, RCD compatibility, and the suitability of the BS 1363 standard for generation.

Across all responses, respondents were broadly supportive of the direction of travel but split between those pressing for a more ambitious approach, including on plug-in battery storage, a higher output limit, or wider deployment; and those emphasising residual risks from older UK wiring, fire safety concerns and consumer misuse.

Where comments have suggested clarifications, amendments, or additions to the IPS, these have been analysed and addressed in the technical annex to the government’s response.

Section B Question 1:

Summary of Responses

Question B.1 (413 responses) sought views on whether respondents agreed with the proposal to require manufacturer compliance with an interim product specification before a plug-in solar device can be placed on the market?

A total of 86% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 7% respondents replied “No”, 7% replied “Not sure”.

- Most respondents supported requiring manufacturer compliance before products could be placed on the market. Respondents commonly viewed an interim product specification as an essential minimum safety baseline that would help prevent unsafe or poor-quality products entering the market and provide confidence for consumers, retailers and regulators.
- Many respondents considered that compliance should be demonstrated before market placement rather than relying solely on wider product safety requirements after products have entered the market. Several also highlighted the importance of effective market surveillance, enforcement and clear compliance arrangements.
- A minority of respondents raised concerns about non-compliant products being sold through online marketplaces and emphasised the importance of providing retailers and enforcement authorities with a clear basis for identifying compliant products.
- Some respondents noted that product compliance alone would not address all risks and highlighted the importance of installation suitability, consumer guidance and ongoing monitoring. A small number also requested that the scope of the policy be expanded to include battery-integrated or all-in-one solar-plus-storage products.
- Respondents who disagreed generally felt that the IPS should be strengthened further, or that products should not be enabled until a permanent standard or broader regulatory framework is developed.

Government Response

The government agrees that manufacturers, suppliers and retailers should demonstrate compliance with the IPS before products can be placed on the market.

The IPS provides a defined set of minimum requirements for products entering the market during the transitional period ahead of a full update to the relevant standards and regulations. We will continue to work with stakeholders to support the development of long-term standards and product assurance arrangements.

Section B Question 2:

Summary of Responses

Question B.2 (448 responses) sought views on whether respondents agreed with the proposal to use the same broad approach as the German standard (DIN VDE 0126-95) as a baseline, with amendments for the UK context, to support future international harmonisation.

A total of 87% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 7% replied “No” and 6% replied “Not sure”.

- Most respondents supported using the German standard as a baseline, citing Germany’s extensive deployment experience and strong safety record. Many felt it provided a proven foundation that would allow the UK to move more quickly without developing a new framework from scratch.
- A large proportion of respondents highlighted the benefits of international harmonisation, including faster market access, improved product availability, reduced costs, consumer choice and lower certification burdens for manufacturers operating across multiple markets. Several noted that many products are already designed and tested to the German standard, reducing the need for bespoke UK variants.
- Many respondents agreed with the proposal provided that appropriate UK-specific amendments were made. The most cited areas requiring adaptation were BS 1363 plugs and fuses, ring final circuits, G98 requirements, RCD compatibility, earthing arrangements and differences in UK housing stock. Several respondents stressed that international harmonisation should not come at the expense of addressing UK-specific safety, network and building considerations.
- A smaller proportion of respondents considered that the German approach could not be directly applied to the UK because of differences in electrical infrastructure, building stock and regulatory requirements. These respondents often argued that a more UK-specific approach or standard would be required.
- Some respondents argued that the UK should go beyond the German framework by including battery storage, increasing the proposed 800W output limit, removing the proposed DC input limit, or drawing on approaches adopted elsewhere in Europe.
- While many respondents favoured keeping amendments to a minimum to preserve harmonisation benefits, others stressed that UK-specific safety and infrastructure considerations should take precedence where necessary.

Government Response

The government considers that building on international experience is appropriate, while recognising the need to reflect unique UK circumstances.

The final IPS has been developed to account for the characteristics of UK electrical installations and regulatory requirements whilst maintaining alignment with established international approaches where appropriate.

Section B Question 3:

Summary of Responses

Question B.3 (437 respondents) sought views on whether the engineering controls in the IPS were proportionate to the risks of deploying plug-in solar in the UK.

A total of 67% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 13% replied “No” and 19% replied “Not sure”.

- Where additional reasoning was supplied, respondents who agreed felt that there was little risk to deploying plug in solar devices in the UK, given European precedent and the findings of the safety study published alongside the consultation.
- Some specifically noted that they saw the anti-islanding protection, maximum output limits, and requirement for G98 compliance outlined in the specification as sufficient and that the specification was proportionate given its interim basis.
- A few respondents felt that specific guidance for flats and balconies was necessary.
- Of respondents who disagreed, some felt that the IPS content was disproportionate to the risks of deploying plug-in solar on the basis of:
    - the requirement for manufacturer-provided structural calculations,
    - the exclusion of battery systems, and
    - the one-per-household and 800W limit.
- Others felt that the IPS did not go far enough to protect against risks associated with older wiring and consumer units, the potential misuse of extension leads, and the need for a bidirectional RCBO requirement.

Government Response

The government recognises that some respondents raised concerns regarding product controls, consumer behaviour and installation conditions.

The IPS forms one part of a wider implementation package. Product requirements will be supported by robust consumer guidance and continuing stakeholder engagement as deployment progresses.

Section B Question 4:

Summary of Responses

Question B.4 (405 responses) sought views on whether respondents agreed that the IPS addresses all the points in the safety study commissioned by DESNZ.

A total of 62% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 8% replied “No” and 30% replied “Not sure”.

- A small proportion of respondents felt that the IPS did not fully address the points in the safety study. Of those who disagreed, just over half pointed to technical gaps in the specification or limitations to the study, such as a small RCD sample size tested in the study, additional consideration for safe outdoor installations, and cyber security considerations.
- A small proportion of respondents raised concerns that the study did not comprehensively cover the variety of UK housing electrical installations and older wiring installations or consumer behaviour.
- A small proportion of respondents strongly supported including an explicit requirement to assess electromagnetic compatibility at maximum rated export power against EN 61000-6-3 Class B.
- A small proportion of respondents contended that wider system risks identified in the study remain unresolved, such as multiple devices per household, installation practices, building safety, consumer behaviour and G98 registration, which will require additional system level controls and guidance to address.
- Of the small proportion of respondents who commented on the exclusion of batteries from the specification, there were a mixture of views. Some respondents welcomed the exclusion of batteries until further safety studies or product standards could be developed, whilst others felt that the additional safety risk is small if the mains-connected output is limited to 800W.

Government Response

The electrical safety study directly informed the development of the IPS, and the government welcomes the feedback received on the relationship between the study and the final specification. The IPS addresses the principal product-level risks identified in the study, including anti-islanding, export limitation, live pin protection, electromagnetic compatibility, residual current considerations and safe use instructions.

We recognise that some respondents considered that broader system-level issues require further attention, including consumer behaviour, installation conditions, DNO notification, older wiring, protective devices and building safety. These issues cannot all be addressed through a product specification alone.

They are instead being addressed through the wider implementation package, including consumer guidance, manufacturer instructions, G98 arrangements, ongoing stakeholder engagement and ongoing monitoring of deployment. Where respondents suggested technical clarifications or amendments to the IPS, these have been reviewed and incorporated where appropriate (see Annex B).

Section B Question 5:

Summary of Responses

Question B.5 (420 responses) sought views on whether there were elements of the existing technical standards quoted in the IPS that are unsuitable for the UK context or not applicable to plug-in solar devices.

A total of 52% of respondents replied “No” to this question, 14% replied “Yes” and 34% replied “Not sure”.

- The most commonly raised concerns were around the differences between UK and European circuits, and specifically that the UK uses ring circuits, rather than radial circuits which are more common in Europe; and that the IPS would not be aligned with the protection requirement set out in BS 7671.
- There were also concerns around the variability in consumer units, especially in older housing stock in the UK.
- A minority of respondents also requested that we ensure that there is clear, visual consumer guidance on checking consumer unit compatibility, avoiding the use of extension leads, and that properties with rewirable fuses require a professional assessment.
- Several respondents raised concerns that BS 1363 was not written with generation in mind.
- Several respondents urged government to go further and faster, or felt that the requirements were over-specified, with a small number of respondents asking the government to also include plug-in batteries in the IPS. One respondent felt the structural and mounting requirements were overstated for the types of products most consumers would purchase and one respondent raised concerns that the requirements set out in the IPS to handle snow load, salt mist and ammonia exposure are disproportionate to UK household usage.
- A few respondents raised concerns that type AC RCDs are not suitable for plug-in solar, or that bidirectional RCBOs would be required.
- A small number of respondents asked that we make it clear that references to German DIN requirements are informational only and not binding, and two respondents felt that the references to DIN requirements should be replaced entirely with BS EN equivalents before bringing plug-in solar to market.

- Several respondents felt references to BS 50438 are outdated and should not be referenced in the IPS, or that we should be clear where G98 takes precedence.
- A small number of respondents raised questions on how the standards would apply to Northern Ireland and questioned whether there were implications for the Windsor Framework.

Government Response

The government acknowledges the comments received regarding the interaction between the IPS, and existing standards and guidance.

The IPS has been reviewed, and a number of amendments have been made to strengthen it, incorporating feedback from consultation responses. These include:

- The introduction of a maximum residual DC current leakage limit to address concerns regarding the potential impact on protective devices in older electrical installations.
- New consumer information is to be provided by manufacturers for consumers to test their protective devices in line with existing electrical safety guidance.
- Additional fire safety measures, including requirements relating to the fire performance of backing materials in PV modules to minimise fire propagation risk, restrictions on certain installation surfaces and building types, and clarifications on fire-safety related installation guidance.
- Requirements for manufacturers and suppliers to provide safe cable routing arrangements from units placed outdoors to indoor sockets to avoid cable damage.
- Clarification of mounting and cable environmental protection requirements to improve certainty for manufacturers and consumers.
- Clarification that devices must be registered and verified compliant on the ENA Type Test Register before being placed on the market.
- Clarification that products must be clearly marked and labelled as compliant with the IPS.

Amendments have also been made where appropriate to improve clarity, accuracy and consistency, including updating standards, references and correcting identified errors. A full summary of the amendments, technical responses and clarifications on issues raised by respondents is provided in Annex B.

The government acknowledges that ring final circuits are common in UK domestic electrical installations. The independent electrical safety study published alongside the consultation assessed the operation of plug-in solar devices within representative UK installations, including ring final circuits. The testing did not identify safety concerns that would prevent the safe operation of plug-in solar devices with a maximum rated output of 800W on appropriately protected ring circuits. The government therefore considers that the IPS is compatible with UK domestic electrical installations and does not see any issue with the use of compliant plug-in solar devices on such circuits.

Section B Question 6:

Summary of Responses

Question B.6 (429 responses) sought views on whether respondents agreed that the IPS should limit the number of microinverters to either one per household or one per household circuit?

A total of 63% of respondents replied, “One per household circuit”, 21% respondents replied, “One per household” and 15% replied “Other”.

- The majority of respondents support installing more than one microinverter per household circuit as it is safe and manageable and easy to install without a qualified electrician.
- Around 50% of respondents who supported “one per household circuit” felt that, especially for larger houses, more than one plug-in solar device could be installed. Arguments raised included that this would support people who have higher baseload demand or who would like to use plug-in solar devices to power items such as kettles, toasters or irons which generally use more than 800W.
- A small minority of respondents felt that too much work was going into a UK-specific approach and felt we should mirror the German specification.
- On the issue of safety there were mixed views. Many respondents felt that there were few safety concerns as installing more than one 800W microinverter would be safe, provide flexibility and not overpower household circuits. A small proportion of respondents disagreed and felt that plug-in solar is ultimately not safe, unless it is installed by a qualified electrician.
- A small percentage of respondents felt plug-in solar will prove difficult to control and monitor. They also noted that some people are likely to ignore guidelines and do as they please.
- A few respondents have suggested a phased rollout to allow time to develop and make improvements to the product and guidelines.

Government Response

The government notes that respondents expressed a range of views on the appropriate limit for microinverters. Having considered the consultation responses alongside the findings of the electrical safety study, the government has decided that the IPS should allow one plug-in solar device per individual power circuit protected by a circuit breaker at the consumer unit, subject to a corresponding amendment to G98. Until such an amendment is made, the current requirement in G98 limiting installations to one device per household will continue to apply.

This approach reflects the majority view expressed through the consultation and provides a proportionate balance between consumer flexibility and safety. It will allow consumers to use

more than one compliant device where they have separate eligible household circuits, including where this would help optimise generation from different locations or orientations.

The government recognises that clear information will be important to support safe consumer use. The final IPS will therefore require clear instructions to be provided to consumers, including information on identifying household circuits, checking relevant circuit breakers, and understanding when professional advice should be sought. This will be supported by consumer guidance published ahead of the regulatory changes coming into force.

Section B Question 7:

Summary of Responses

Question B.7 (205 responses) sought views on what risks or unintended consequences, if any, should be considered in implementing the IPS?

Of those who replied to this question, 19% of respondents replied positively, 7% respondents replied with a neutral answer, 72% replied negatively and 1% of respondents gave a “Not sure” answer.

- A majority of respondents asked why plug-in solar devices with batteries were not being included in the announcement, and a minority of these respondents argued that by not permitting the use of batteries with plug-in solar devices, the potential payback to consumers was being reduced.
- A small proportion of respondents highlighted the fire risk associated with older homes, especially in homes with old wiring, or poor insultation around older wiring. Another potential risk in all homes highlighted by respondents was the risk of injury to persons or damage to property from falling panels which have not been secured properly.
- A minority of respondents noted that residents often do not control access to their roofs (e.g. in rented accommodation) so they should be given the right to install plug-in solar devices. Others noted that tenants will be deterred from installing plug-in solar because of opposition from landlords, freeholders and “insurance uncertainty”. On the other hand, one landlord drew attention to the fact that after the Grenfell fire disaster landlords have a clear criminal liability with respect to building and fire safety, which will influence their likelihood of allowing tenants to install plug-in solar devices.
- A few respondents requested that plug-in solar devices sold in the shops have a clear alignment with British Standards, so that consumers are not left with “orphaned” or out-of-date products in the future.
- A few respondents also highlighted the risk to network operators not being able to balance the grid if large numbers of plug-in solar devices are unregistered. For this reason, they

said that it is imperative that all plug-in solar devices are registered with consumers' energy networks.

Government Response

The government recognises the range of risks and unintended consequences identified by respondents, including misuse, unsuitable installations, market surveillance, fire safety, mounting risks, landlord or freeholder consent, online sales and the exclusion of battery-integrated products.

Many of these issues have informed the final IPS and wider implementation package. For example, additional fire safety measures, including requirements relating to the fire performance of PV modules to minimise fire propagation risk, restrictions on certain installation surfaces and building types and clarifications on fire-safety related installation guidance have been included in the IPS. Additionally, the IPS includes technical controls, consumer information requirements, product warnings, mounting requirements and compliance arrangements, while guidance will provide additional support for consumers, freeholders, landlords, leaseholders and those living in managed buildings.

The government recognises stakeholder interest in battery-integrated products but considers that they raise additional technical and regulatory issues that have not been assessed through this work. We will continue to monitor implementation and work with stakeholders, enforcement bodies and standards organisations as the market develops.

Section C: Consumer Protection and Market Issues

Overview

This chapter summarises the responses to Questions C.1 and C.2 of the consultation. These questions considered how the government can support robust consumer protections for plug-in solar, in addition to the requirements of the PSSR and the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GPSR) in Great Britain and, in Northern Ireland, the EU General Product Safety Regulation (EU) 2023/988.

Question C.1 focused on the information that should be provided to consumers at the point of sale and prior to installation, including that on safety, the suitability of existing electrical circuits and protective devices, the suitability of dwellings, and the limitations of the product. Question C.2 sought to explore the risks of misuse, misunderstanding or unsafe adaptation, and the specific settings – such as particular types of dwellings – where those risks are most relevant and most require mitigating.

Responses to this question highlighted the importance of clear, simple and accessible consumer information at the point of sale and prior to installation, with most respondents supporting the use of pre-installation checklists that cover issues such as the one-unit-per-household (or per-circuit) limit, RCD/RCBO protection, G98 notification, prohibition of extension leads, circuit identification, and the need for renters and leaseholders to seek landlord or freeholder consent. Around half also called for clear information on savings, maximum output, and the differences between plug-in and rooftop solar, with some respondents pressing for tailored guidance for different dwelling types, older wiring, and cases where a competent person should be consulted.

On risks of misuse and unsafe adaptation, views were mixed. Thirty-nine percent saw no significant risks beyond those already addressed, while 29% identified concerns, most commonly around installation and mounting (including extension leads, multiple units on the same circuit, older wiring and balcony or façade mounting). Flats, high-rise buildings, Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), and older housing stock were seen as higher-risk settings, and consumer behaviour (DIY modification, unauthorised batteries and non-compliant online purchases) was raised as a further concern.

Suggested mitigations centred on point-of-sale guidance, clear labelling, market enforcement both on and offline, professional assessment pathways, and landlord consent processes.

Section C Question 1:

Summary of Responses

Question C.1 (309 responses) sought views on what information should be provided to consumers at the point of sale and prior to installation.

- Most respondents emphasised the need for point-of-sale information to be simple, clear and accessible, with a majority suggesting pre-installation checklists to identify a home's suitability and a few noting the need for multiple formats (e.g. video guidance, digital journeys, list of "dos and don’ts").
- Most respondents favoured guidance including: i) the requirement for one plug-in solar unit per household (or one per circuit, if adopted); ii) that RCD or RCBO protection is needed; iii) that they should notify their DNO via the G98 notification process; iv) that extension leads or "daisy chaining" are prohibited; v) circuit identification guidance; and vi) that renters and leaseholders should seek landlord/freeholder consent prior to installation.
- Around half of respondents also suggested providing clear information on potential savings and benefits, maximum power output, and clarity on the point that plug-in solar devices are not equivalent to rooftop or ground-mount solar (in that they will not provide power during a power outage and cannot be combined with battery storage).
- Some respondents also emphasised the need for guidance to make clear when to seek advice from a competent person. A few respondents also indicated that guidance should include bespoke information for different dwelling types, advice on safe mounting, and caution for homes with older wiring arrangements.
- A few respondents felt that guidance should include advice to procure an Electrical Installation Condition Report and/or that installation should only be performed by a registered electrician.

5.Government Response

The government agrees that clear, simple and accessible consumer information is essential to safe deployment. Manufacturers, suppliers and retailers will be required to provide instructions, warnings and product information to consumers, additionally we will work with stakeholders to produce clear and easy to understand consumer-facing guidance to support safe installation and use.

Government intends that the guidance will cover issues including product compliance, safe installation and operation, circuit identification, the requirement for no more than one device on each circuit protected by a circuit breaker, G98 notification requirements, mounting arrangements, product limitations, and when consumers should seek advice from a qualified electrician.

It will also make clear that renters, leaseholders and residents in managed buildings should obtain any permissions that may be required before installing a device. The guidance will highlight that consumers should check any planning requirements that apply in their local area, as these may vary depending on the type and location of the installation.

Government intends that the information will be easy to understand and presented in plain language, with clear visuals and accessibility considerations taken into account.

Section C Question 2:

Summary of Responses

Question C.2 (403 responses) sought views whether there are risks of misuse, misunderstanding, or unsafe adaptation that should be mitigated and the settings in which these risks would be most relevant.

A total of 39% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 33% replied “No” and 27% replied “Not sure”.

- Several respondents who said "No" considered the risks are manageable and pointed to experience in other countries, particularly Germany, while others noted that it is not possible to eliminate all forms of misuse and that regulation should focus on reducing the most significant risks.
- A minority of respondents raised installation and mounting related risk including the use of extension leads or adaptors, connecting multiple units to the same circuit, older or inadequate wiring, wind loading, falling panels, and balcony or façade mounting. Out of this group, a smaller number highlighted cable routing hazards, lack of RCD protection, unsuitable socket-outlets, and risks associated with working at height.
- A small number of respondents considered that flats and high-rise buildings present greater risks. A few also referred to HMOs and converted properties, rented and social housing, older housing stock, and listed or thatched buildings.
- Consumer behaviour and misuse were also raised as potential risk factors which accounted for a small number of responses with common concerns including DIY modification of products, the addition of unauthorised batteries, the purchase of non-compliant products through online marketplaces, and consumers treating plug-in solar devices as ordinary appliances without fully understanding relevant safety considerations.
- Respondents also suggested a range of measures to mitigate these risks, including point-of-sale guidance, clear product labelling, retailer and online marketplace enforcement, and, in some cases, professional assessment and landlord/freeholder consent processes.

Government Response

The government recognises that, as with all consumer products, some forms of misuse and unsafe adaptation will be unavoidable, and a combination of product requirements and consumer information can help mitigate these risks.

The IPS has been strengthened to address foreseeable misuse through design requirements, warnings, instructions and installation information. Manufacturers, suppliers and retailers will be required to provide clear guidance on appropriate use, mounting, circuit identification and when to seek professional advice. The approach focuses on reducing foreseeable risks through clear product requirements, consumer information, suppliers, retailer responsibilities and existing

regulatory controls. As well as the information which manufacturers, suppliers and retailers will be required to include, Government will work with stakeholders to produce additional clear and easy to understand consumer-facing guidance to support safe installation and use.

Section D: Implementation and Timing

Overview

This chapter summarises the responses to Questions D.1 and D.2 of the consultation. These questions considered the proposed timeline for introducing the IPS and the practical steps required to support timely and effective rollout, reflecting the government's ambition to enable deployment of plug-in solar as part of its response to the cost-of-living pressures arising from the conflict in the Middle East.

Question D.1 focused on the feasibility of the proposed timeline for introducing the IPS. Question D.2 explored what support or guidance would help ensure timely and effective implementation of the IPS.

Responses to this set of questions showed strong support for the proposed implementation timeline, with 78% of respondents backing the government's timetable on the basis that plug-in solar is already established in other European markets, that action is needed to address the existing unregulated "grey market", and that moving quickly would allow consumers to benefit from the summer generation window. A small number of respondents asked the government to go further and bring all-in-one devices (including batteries) into scope of the policy. Almost a quarter of respondents raised concerns that the pace could come at the expense of safety, testing, or product standardisation work.

On support and guidance, respondents most frequently called for clear consumer information, alignment with EU and German guidelines, public awareness campaigns and online tutorials, an official list of compliant products, a robust enforcement framework, clearer installation guidance and a simplified G98 registration process.

Section D Question 1:

Summary of Responses

Question D.1 (421 responses) sought views on whether the proposed timeline for introducing the IPS was feasible.

A total of 78% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question, 10% replied “No” and 11% replied “Not sure”.

- Most respondents expressed support for the proposed timeline because of the product having already been successfully rolled out in other countries, making it easy to adapt the regulatory position for the UK. Many respondents suggested recognising existing certifications from other countries, such as Germany.
- The other main arguments put forward in favour of the proposed timeline were that the product was already available to be purchased, meaning there was a need to address an

unregulated grey market, and the necessity to act fast in order to capture the summer generation window.

- Almost a quarter of respondents expressed concerns, often on the basis that the timeline might compromise safety over speed. The proportion of respondents expressing concerns was highest where they represented organisations with technical expertise, such as electricians.
- Several respondents, regardless of whether or not they were supportive of the timeline, emphasised the importance of adequate testing and certification processes. Some also noted the need for a fit-for-purpose, straightforward implementation and compliance framework – including market surveillance and regulation processes. The need for clear guidance, both for consumers and the industry, was noted several times.
- Amongst respondents opposing the proposed timeline, the main concerns included not having enough time to address all potential safety issues, as well as the risk of products entering the market under an interim standardisation framework that was not yet fully developed.
- A minority of respondents highlighted that 'all-integrated products' (e.g. microgeneration products including batteries), should be considered as part of the same regulatory framework.

Government Response

The government notes that most respondents supported the feasibility of the proposed timeline and the differing views on implementation timescales. We remain committed to enabling consumers to benefit from plug-in solar devices whilst maintaining appropriate protections.

These measures will be supported by guidance, engagement with stakeholders and supporting regulatory measures. We will continue to work closely with industry, regulators and other key organisations throughout the implementation period and also after products are made widely available to consumers.

Section D Question 2:

Summary of Responses

Question D.2 (460 responses) sought views from respondents on what support or guidance would help ensure timely and effective implementation of the IPS?

For this question 60% of respondents did not reply or have enough knowledge to answer the question, the remaining 40% of respondents provided views.

- Of those who responded to the question the majority of respondents were keen to see clear consumer guidance online to accompany plug-in solar devices.

- Similarly, a majority of respondents who responded would like to see guidelines aligned with those of the EU/Germany and were keen for the government to “not reinvent the wheel” but to commence retail sales for plug-in solar as soon as possible.
- A minority of those who responded to the question asked for national TV campaigns along with strong social media presence to push the benefits of plug-in solar devices. Respondents also wanted to see tutorials on online streaming services and social media, as well as online guides for installing devices safely. A few respondents wanted qualified electricians to install plug-in solar devices instead of consumers themselves.
- Most respondents felt strongly that products sold should be compliant, with a small number of respondents wanting to see an official list of compliant products so that they could avoid purchasing non-compliant products.

Government Response

The government agrees that successful implementation of these regulatory changes will require clear guidance and communications for consumers, manufacturers, retailers, online marketplaces and enforcement authorities.

In addition to the consumer information that manufacturers are required to provide, as set out in the IPS, the government will work with stakeholders to produce additional supporting guidance covering, for example, consumer safety, circuit identification, mounting requirements, G98 notification arrangements, prohibited uses, and circumstances where professional advice should be sought.

We will also continue to work with regulators, retailers, online marketplaces and others to support awareness of the regulatory requirements and help consumers identify compliant products. This will include considering how best to make information on compliant products accessible to consumers and retailers.

Section E: General

Overview

This chapter summarises the responses to Question E.1 of the consultation. This question provided respondents with the opportunity to submit any additional comments or evidence, beyond those captured by the preceding questions, to inform further development of the framework for plug-in solar.

This question attracted a wide range of additional comments, with respondents broadly urging the government to move quickly on implementation and to build on the interim framework over time. The most recurrent themes were frustration at the exclusion of battery storage, the potential benefits for renters and flat-dwellers (subject to leasehold and planning barriers), and affordability. Respondents also referenced wider policy levers such as VAT relief and Smart Export Guarantee reform, as well as the need for clear consumer guidance, robust market surveillance, and an enduring product standard.

Section E Question 1:

Summary of Responses (Including Feedback on the Consultation Analytical Annex Questions)

Question E.1 (443 responses) invited respondents to provide any additional comments or evidence to inform the development of the plug-in solar framework.

- Many respondents urged government to proceed quickly with implementation, arguing that plug-in solar is already widely used elsewhere in Europe and could deliver consumer, energy security and decarbonisation benefits without unnecessary delay. Several respondents also highlighted the potential of plug-in solar to give households greater control over their own energy generation and consumption.
- One of the most frequently raised issues was the exclusion of battery storage. Many respondents argued that batteries would increase self-consumption, improve bill savings and enhance the value of plug-in solar. Several called for a clear pathway for battery-integrated products.
- Respondents frequently highlighted the potential benefits for renters, leaseholders and residents of flats who are often unable to access conventional rooftop solar. However, many noted that leasehold restrictions, landlord consent requirements, planning barriers and wider building management considerations may limit uptake unless addressed alongside the framework.
- Affordability was a recurring theme, with respondents citing the potential for lower energy bills. A number of respondents also called for measures such as VAT relief, reforms to Smart Export Guarantee arrangements and other policy changes to maximise consumer benefits.

- Safety concerns centred on older electrical installations, fire risks, mounting arrangements, building safety and the suitability of self-installation. While some respondents argued that installation by a competent person should be required, others felt the proposed safeguards were proportionate and supported wider consumer access.
- A number of respondents highlighted the importance of clear consumer guidance, effective market surveillance and ongoing monitoring. Common suggestions included public registers of compliant products, stronger action against non-compliant imports, simplified G98 notification and registration processes, clearer arrangements for exported electricity, and post-market monitoring to support consumer confidence and maintain safety standards.
- Several organisations also argued that the interim framework should evolve into a longer-term British Standard or equivalent enduring framework, supported by ongoing review, evidence gathering, market monitoring and stakeholder engagement as the technology and market develop.
- A small number of respondents also referred specifically to the Analytical Annex published as part of the consultation. One highlighted that the social value of generation from plug-in solar devices would differ from the retail savings experienced by installers, reflecting the potential for solar panels to provide power at points in time where the existing capacity can comfortably meet supply. They asserted that tariff structures will determine how well aligned consumer and system incentive will be. Another highlighted the importance of product registration and visibility for electricity network operability.
- One respondent supported the use of German market data in analysis of take-up and suggested that this also suggested plug-in solar might raise demand for household electricity storage. Another suggested that, whilst the Annex's assumptions may be reasonable for modelling purposes: analysis should take into account a full range of potential consumer requirements in additional to the cost of plug-in solar kits; and consumers may find it difficult to fully understand the likely financial return and would benefit from guidance. It also suggested a larger proportion of households may require professional electrical input in practice, because many existing installations were not designed with the expectation that generation equipment would be connected via a standard socket outlet and professional electrical advice may be sought where the suitability of installations is uncertain.
- One respondent highlighted the potential for benefits and costs to vary significantly across consumers and the value of consumers being able to access guidance or support to help accurately assess savings and understand installation requirements and their rights.
- One respondent suggested that any approach to encouraging professional involvement in installation would need to balance the benefits for reducing safety risks with the impacts on cost and take-up.

Government Response

The government is grateful for the wide range of evidence and comments received through the consultation. Respondents highlighted issues relating to battery storage, landlord and leaseholder consent, planning, building safety, insurance, market surveillance and longer-term standards development.

The government will proceed with the regulatory amendments and final IPS, supported by consumer guidance, G98 arrangements, engagement with enforcement bodies and ongoing monitoring. We will also continue to work with standards bodies and stakeholders on the development of a long-term standard for plug-in solar.

Battery-integrated products remain outside the scope of the current framework. However, we recognise stakeholder interest in these technologies and will continue to consider the evidence base as part of future work.

Annex A: Analytical Considerations

This annex sets out our approach to analysing the consultation responses and its key limitations.

Qualitative analysis: Free Text Responses

In conducting the analysis, officials developed two sets of codes. Firstly, they allocated sentiment codes to each response, considering whether the response to each question had a “positive”, “negative” or “neutral” response to the question asked.

Officials then developed qualitative codes based on patterns emerging from the responses, following an inductive thematic analysis approach. In inductive thematic analysis, the dataset (in this case, the consultation responses) is used to generate codes which reflect different key sentiments. Once these codes were identified for each question, officials then aggregated them into three to five broader themes to reflect in their summary of the responses.

Quantitative Analysis: Survey Responses

Officials merged responses from Citizen Space and those submitted by email to compile the survey data. The survey data therefore included both data where respondents had provided a clear tick-box answer to a multiple-choice question (that is, either “Yes”, “No”, or “Not sure”) and data based on a qualitative assessment of sentiment. Where respondents elaborated on multiple-choice questions but did not directly select multiple-choice answers, officials used the qualitative response to allocate an answer. Those responses that had no comment on a question and provided no multiple-choice answer were excluded from calculations for a particular question.

Direct Stakeholder Engagement: Workshops and Bilateral Meetings

The consultation was supported by a programme of deep engagement and targeted workshops with expert stakeholders to test proposals and to gather detailed technical input from industry. This engagement helped to ensure that feedback on the policy was received from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible, including manufacturers, retailers, insurers, representative of leaseholders and managing agents, and standards bodies. During these meetings, stakeholder views on all aspects of the consultation were noted and are summarised in the introduction to this consultation response. Additionally, many of these key stakeholders submitted consultation responses via GOV.UK and by email, setting out their answers to consultation questions in more detail.

Key Limitations

Whilst officials sought to conduct as systematic and robust an analysis as possible, there are several key limitations to note:

- There is inherently a degree of subjective judgement in using qualitative coding and thematic analysis in practice – application of this method may have differed slightly across the different officials reviewing responses
- The number of responses to each question, as well as the extent to which respondents elaborated on their answers, varied significantly across the consultation. Additionally, whilst we received over 460 responses, these responses may not form a representative picture of sentiment on plug-in solar as a whole.
- Whilst every effort was made to provide an accurate qualitative assessment of responses in compiling the survey data, this again involved an element of subjective judgement.
- Due to rounding, percentage figures for some multiple-choice questions (where a “Yes”, “No” or “Not sure” answer is required) may not add up to 100%.

Annex B: Technical Annex

Introduction

The consultation responses were generally positive with many respondents expressing support for the proposed amendment to the Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 (PSSR) and the introduction of the Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification (IPS). While the majority of respondents were content with the IPS, a number of respondents provided detailed technical comments. This section summarises and addresses the principal technical themes raised by respondents.

Plug Specification

Some respondents suggested expanding the specification to include alternative connector types, such as IEC 60309 for industrial plugs and sockets, particularly for outdoor or outbuilding installations.

Government Response: The purpose of the IPS is to establish initial requirements for consumer plug-in solar devices designed for connection to standard domestic sockets. We will consider the use of IEC 60309 and further changes to connection arrangement when we develop a full standard for plug-in microgeneration devices at a later date.

A respondent questioned the practicality of the mechanical protection option and suggested that it may be difficult to implement within a standard BS 1363 plug and socket arrangement. Respondents considered that electromechanical solutions may be more readily achievable without modification of the fixed installation.

Government response: The IPS allows manufacturers flexibility in how the additional contact protection requirement is achieved. Manufacturers may use either a mechanical or electromechanical solution, provided that the safety objectives of the IPS are met. The IPS does not prescribe a particular product design.

A respondent suggested that the plug should incorporate additional protection devices, such as bi-directional residual current protection.

Government response: The government has not identified sufficient evidence to justify mandating a specific plug design incorporating bi-directional residual current protection. Existing electrical safety requirements, together with the product anti-islanding requirements set out in the IPS, are considered to provide an appropriate level of protection.

Multiple units per premise

61% of respondents support having one device per household circuit while 19% considered that only a single plug-in solar device should be permitted per premises citing alignment with

Engineering Recommendations G98 Issue 2 Amendment 1, impact on the network, old wiring in properties and the ability of consumers to correctly identify separate electrical circuits.

Government response: Having considered consultation responses and stakeholder feedback, the government's approach is to limit the deployment to one per power circuit, subject to corresponding changes to the G98. Some respondents suggested limiting the total capacity per dwelling to 800VA, but we think the evidence for doing this is weak considering most UK dwellings have a minimum of two power circuits.

This approach provides greater flexibility for consumers while maintaining the same overall export limit per plug-in device. For example, consumers may wish to install multiple smaller plug-in solar devices at different orientations or locations around a property to optimise energy generation throughout the day.

The government recognises concerns regarding consumers' ability to identify individual circuits and has included in the IPS a requirement for manufacturers to provide guidance to help consumers determine whether sockets are connected to the same or different final circuits. We believe that identifying circuits by switching on and off breakers should be within the capability of most consumers, but consumers should be advised to seek assistance from a qualified electrician where there is any uncertainty regarding circuit arrangements.

Customer Connection of Inverters

Some respondents expressed a preference for fully integrated products and raised concerns about consumers connecting PV modules to microinverters during installation. In addition, some respondents asked about connecting panels on the outside of a property to an inverter located inside the property and the need to put on low voltage DC plugs on after the cable is passed through the wall.

Government response: Under the IPS, the products are supplied as a complete kit comprising PV module(s), microinverter and manufacturer-supplied interconnecting cables and connectors. Consumers should only connect connectors in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The IPS also includes requirements for connectors, cables and instructions intended to ensure such connections can be made safely and correctly. We do not therefore consider it necessary to restrict the market to fully integrated products only.

Portability

Some respondents considered that the description of portability could be interpreted as permitting frequent relocation of the PV module after installation.

Government response: We agree that the previous wording could have been misinterpreted. The IPS has therefore been amended to: *“The PV module shall be capable of being removed*

from the mounting position using the mounting system provided by the manufacturer without a professional tool."

Registration of the Unit and the Connection

Some respondents suggested that the IPS should clarify the role of the Type Test Register and make clear that compliance must be demonstrated before products are placed on the market.

Government response: We agree that registration alone is not sufficient and that only devices assessed and identified as compliant on the Type Test Register are considered to have demonstrated compliance with the relevant G98 requirements. The IPS has been amended to reflect this.

Legacy RCDs/MCBs and Bidirectional RCDs

Some respondents raised concerns regarding compatibility with older electrical installations, including legacy RCDs, older consumer units and other protective devices that may not have been designed for inverter connected generation equipment. Respondents suggested that risks relating to legacy wiring, socket condition, protective devices and installation suitability are not fully addressed by product-level controls alone. Further investigation of residual DC current and protective device performance was suggested. Some respondents raised concerns about consumer awareness of existing protective devices.

Government response: We note that the potential for DC leakage to reduce the effectiveness of older (mostly AC type) RCD is a problem not unique to plug-in solar devices since most modern switch-mode power supplies leak small amounts of DC back onto the supply through the decoupling capacitor. This is therefore a more general issue as to suitability of older legacy protective devices in an era of modern electronics with many DC powered devices connected into the supply. In the longer term, we welcome the industry moving to type B or F RCD devices that don't have this issue.

In response to consultation feedback, the government is:

- Amending the IPS to require that any residual DC current at maximum output power from the inverter does not exceed 5 mA. We note that BS IEC 62955 for EV chargers requires DC leakage current to be under 6mA when used with type A RCDs and that BS IEC 62368-1 for audio, video, information, and communication technology (ICT) equipment would allow leakage currents at this level when several devices are connected.
- Undertaking further electrical testing to assess whether residual direct current injection from plug-in solar devices at 5mA maximum levels could still result in desensitisation of older (type AC) RCBOs and other protective devices under UK installation configurations. The level of 5mA maximum will be reviewed once these results are available.
- Since the issue of DC injection desensitising RCDs is not confined to plug-in solar devices, consumers will be reminded to periodically test their protective devices in

accordance with existing electrical safety guidance. IPS has therefore been amended to include clearer guidance that manufacturers should include to help consumers identify modern protective devices and electrical circuits, how to test the operation of the RCD, and to advise consumers to seek assistance from a qualified electrician if the devices failed or where they are unsure.

With these modifications to the interim IPS and the additional guidance, ahead of the final tests being completed the government's view is that this precautionary approach will reduce any residual risk associated with the potential impact of DC residual currents on older legacy protective devices.

Potential electric shock risk

A respondent raised concern that where plug-in solar are connected to circuits protected by single-pole RCBOs, disconnection times could be extended well beyond the 40ms limits normally relied on for additional protection against electric shock by a further 100ms, and that this risk was not sufficiently mitigated in the IPS.

Government response: The IPS sets the requirement to the plug-in solar device disconnecting from the mains supply and the reduction of voltages at accessible plug pins to below 34 V following loss of mains supply in 100ms in an open circuit condition. It is intended to address safety risks associated with accessible plug pins on pulling the plug from the socket. The testing carried out published alongside the draft specification does not indicate extended response times for RCDs. We intend to monitor further evidence related to any potential impact of RCDs and RCBOs ahead of a final specification.

Marking and compliance demonstration

Many respondents suggested a specific compliance mark, logo, register or easily identifiable conformity scheme to distinguish compliant products from non-compliant imports. Several respondents considered the technical requirements themselves to be broadly clear but argued that it is unclear how compliance should be demonstrated and verified in practice. one manufacturer noted that compliance may need to be demonstrated at the assembled kit level rather than by individual component manufacturers.

Government response: The government agrees that clear identification of compliant products is important. The IPS has therefore been amended to require products include a declaration that the product complies with the IPS. This is intended to assist consumers, retailers, suppliers and enforcement authorities in identifying compliant products. The government will also consider, as part of future standards development and international harmonisation activities, whether a dedicated conformity marking for plug-in microgeneration products could be developed, analogous to existing UKCA and CE marking arrangement for electricity consuming devices.

The IPS does not require certification against the IPS by an independent third-party certification body. Manufacturers are responsible for demonstrating compliance through the conformity assessment requirements and retention of testing and technical documents as specified in the IPS. On verification, the IPS requires type testing, registration and verification of compliant devices on the ENA Type Test Register. The IPS requires the plug-in solar device to be supplied as complete kits comprising multiple components. Where products are supplied as multi-component kits, manufacturers or suppliers placing a complete product on the market are responsible for ensuring that the complete product complies with the requirements of the IPS.

PV Modules Cap

Respondents argued that DC module limits may unnecessarily restrict energy yield and suggested allowing greater DC capacity while maintaining the 800W AC export limit

Government response: We note the view that the 2,000W DC input power cap may be overly restrictive in the UK context and will keep this limit under review as market evidence and operational experience develop. However, it will be retained in this interim IPS while we gain operational experience of plug-in solar in the UK.

DC Cable

A respondent sought clarification on requirements applicable to DC cable between the PV module and inverter, including whether cable identification requirements apply and whether a DC isolation device is required.

Government response No additional labels are required for DC cables supplied as part of the complete plug-in solar device. A separate user-operated DC isolation switch is not required due to the low voltage in the DC connecting cables.

External to internal cable routing

Respondents ask how products are safely connected where panels are outdoors, but sockets are indoors, and whether cable routing through windows/doors is acceptable.

Government response: We note the concerns about outdoor connection arrangements and routing from external PV modules to an internal socket. The IPS has been amended to require manufacturers and suppliers to provide cable management and installation instructions to minimise the risk of cable damage during installation and use. We are allowing DC cables to be routed from the outside to the inside of the property and the consumer to connect required plugs onto the cable following the manufacturer’s instructions.

Structural calculations for mounting systems

Several respondents argued that the requirement for structural calculations to BS EN 1991-1-3 and BS EN 1991-1-4 exceeds comparable European requirements and may create barriers to market entry. It was suggested that clear mounting instructions may be a more proportionate approach. However, other respondents highlighted the importance of safe mounting, particularly for balconies, facades and elevated installations where falling objects could present a risk to the public.

Government response: These requirements were included to ensure that plug-in solar devices can be safely deployed under UK weather conditions and installation scenarios, and to reduce risks associated with detachment or falling components. Similar principles relating to mounting suitability, structural assessment and mechanical stability are also reflected in DIN VDE V 0126-95, which requires manufacturers to provide a structural analysis for intended mounting arrangements. The IPS also requires manufacturers to define the intended installation environments and mounting configurations for their products. We have made clear in the IPS that environmental testing (e.g. salt conditions, ammonia, snow loading) is only applicable when the product is rated for relevant environments.

Electrical safety study

A respondent questioned whether the electrical safety study provides a sufficient basis for implementation, noting that the testing identified variation between products in a number of areas including electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), export limitation performance, voltage and frequency response behaviour, and compatibility with certain protective devices. Respondents also questioned whether the study fully represents the diversity of UK electrical installations, particularly older housing stock and legacy protective devices. Several respondents suggested that additional testing, monitoring or conformity assessment measures may be required to ensure that products placed on the market consistently meet the intended safety and performance requirement.

Government response: The electrical safety study has assessed a range of electrical safety considerations relevant to plug-in solar devices and has informed the development of the IPS. None of the testing undertaken identified any aspect of existing German devices on the market that would be intrinsically unsafe on a UK ring main circuit.

The government recognises that testing identified variation between products and that this could lead to products not fully meeting consumer expectations. The IPS sets out improved technical requirements relating to areas including anti-islanding performance, export limitation, electromagnetic compatibility, residual current protection, maximum residual DC current, product testing and registration. The government will continue to consider evidence and real-world experience as part of the implementation.

Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016

A respondent suggested that plug-in solar devices fall within the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016.

Government response: Plug-in solar devices are subject to more than one set of regulatory requirements. Manufacturers are expected to comply with all applicable legislation including the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 and the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016, as well as the requirements of the IPS. If there are discrepancies, the more stringent requirement should apply.

Battery Storage

Some respondents argued that plug-in solar plus battery storage systems should be included within the framework, provided the power conversion equipment complies with the IPS and the integrated battery complies with applicable battery storage standards. Respondents considered that excluding battery-backed products may limit consumer benefits and create misalignment with products already available in other market.

Government response: The government notes these comments. Battery-integrated products remain outside the scope of the IPS and the regulatory amendments. The current workstream is intended to establish a controlled framework for plug-in solar devices informed by the available evidence and safety assessment. The government recognises the interest in battery-integrated products but considers that these raise additional technical and regulatory considerations which have not been assessed as part of this work. The government will continue to develop evidence relating to battery-integrated products.

Installation Environments

Some respondents argued that the snow load and corrosion requirements are disproportionate.

Government response: The government considers it important that mounting systems are suitable for the environmental conditions in which they are intended to use. The IPS does not require all products to be designed for the highest snow loading conditions in the UK. Instead, manufacturers are required to define the intended installation conditions for their products, including any relevant wind and snow loading limitations. Similarly, the corrosion testing requirements apply only where a product is intended or marketed for installation in corrosive environments. The IPS has been amended to provide greater clarity of these requirements.

Ring Final Circuits

A small number of respondents argued that plug-in solar is not suitable for connection to ring final circuits and the specification does not adequately reflect the widespread use of ring final circuits in UK domestic installations.

Government response: The government acknowledges that ring circuits are common in UK domestic electrical installations. The electrical safety study published as part of this consultation assessed the operation of plug-in solar within representative UK installations, including ring circuits. The testing did not identify safety concerns that would prevent the safe operation of plug-in solar with a maximum rated output of 800W on appropriately protected ring circuits. The government therefore considers that the IPS is compatible with UK domestic electrical installations and does not see any issue in using plug-in solar on such circuits.

Cable Lengths

Some respondents wanted the interim specification to specify minimum cable lengths for products, whereas other respondents stated doing so would risk consumers being left with long loops of cable that could present electrical and tripping hazards.

Government response: We think it is best left to the market to decide details of products such as cable lengths. The IPS has been altered to allow products to be supplied with variable lengths of DC cables terminated with a plug mounted on the cable by the consumer under instructions from the manufacturer. The consumer guidance will also provide advice on the safe routing and management of cables, including how to minimise trip hazards and avoid damage to cables during installation and use.

Fire Safety

A small number of respondents expressed concerns that plug-in solar devices could increase fire risks spreading over the external surfaces of buildings, particularly when installed on high-rise residential buildings.

Government response: In response to these comments, the IPS has been strengthened and adopts a precautionary approach. This includes additional restrictions on the surfaces and locations where plug-in solar devices may be installed on higher-risk buildings and the introduction of minimum fire performance requirements for backing material in PV modules. The government considers these measures to be proportionate and appropriate for the initial deployment of plug-in solar devices in Great Britain. The government will continue to keep the fire safety requirements under review in light of emerging evidence and any future research on the fire performance of solar panels.

Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)

Several respondents suggested that EMC compliance should be demonstrated at full export power.

Government response: The IPS already requires EMC emissions and immunity testing to be conducted at the maximum power that the microinverter is capable of delivering, ensuring assessment under worst-case operating conditions.

Standards

Several respondents provided comments, suggested amendments and identified areas where references to standards could be updated, clarified and improved.

Government response: The government welcomes the detailed comments and technical input provided by these individuals. The standards referenced in the IPS have been reviewed and amendment have been made where appropriate to improve clarity, accuracy and consistency. The government is grateful for the constructive feedback received, which has informed the development of the final specifications.

Annex C: Glossary

Abbreviation/term	Definition
BSI	The British Standards Institution, the UK's national standards body responsible for developing and publishing technical standards.
CE marking	A conformity marking indicating that a product meets EU health, safety and environmental requirements.
DESNZ	The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
DNO	Distribution Network Operator – companies responsible for operating the local electricity distribution networks that connect homes and businesses to the grid.
G98/G99	Engineering recommendations setting out the technical requirements for connecting generation equipment to distribution networks in Great Britain.
IPS	The Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification: the technical, safety and performance requirements proposed to apply to plug-in solar devices in advance of a permanent UK standard being developed.
Microgeneration	Small-scale generation of electricity or heat by individuals, small businesses and communities to meet their own needs.
Plug-in solar/plug-in microgenerator	A small solar PV system (without a battery) designed to be connected directly to a standard UK mains socket to generate electricity for use in the home.
PSSR	The Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994, the UK regulations governing the safety of domestic plugs, sockets and related electrical accessories.
PV	Photovoltaic – technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity.
UKCA marking	The UK Conformity Assessed marking used for goods placed on the market in Great Britain to indicate they meet applicable regulatory requirements.

This publication is available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plug-in-solar

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