

Energy storage regulations victoria

CFA has updated the Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities(PDF12.8MB) for 2023/2024. Version 4 includes updates to account for rapid changes in technology and facility design, battery energy storage systems in industrial and commercial facilities, and neighbourhood batteries. A list of the changes from version 3 (2022) to version 4 (2023) is available here(PDF374.5KB).

The CFA Design Guidelines and Model Requirements for Renewable Energy Facilities(PDF12.8MB) contain CFA's expectations for consideration of bushfire risk and fire safety measures in the design, construction, commissioning and operation of renewable energy facilities, including solar facilities, wind facilities, and facilities with large-scale battery energy storage systems.

AS 2419.1-2021 requires steel fire water tanks used as either full-capacity tanks, reduced-capacity tanks or break tanks, to conform with AS 2304. CFA advises that for renewable energy facilities, for fire water tanks of a capacity at or below 45,000L, not connected to a hydrant system, CFA will accept fire water tank construction in accordance with AS 2419.1-2005.

While CFA's guidelines provide general guidance, the design team should consult with CFA's Specialist Risk and Fire Safety Unit early in the planning and facility design phase, well before the finalisation of planning applications and facility design. Consultation with CFA's Specialist Risk and Fire Safety Unit is encouraged at all stages of a project's life cycle.

Across Victoria battery energy storage systems are being proposed in local communities to enable the power network to support more rooftop solar. Community or neighbourhood-scale battery energy storage systems range from 100kW to 5MW.

CFA has developed guidance to support consideration of fire risk for neighbourhood battery energy storage systems(PDF380.8KB) from proposal development through to operation. To ensure fire risk is effectively considered within neighbourhood battery proposals, engaging with CFA's Specialist Risk and Fire Safety Unit as early as possible is essential.

CFA recommends the provision of Emergency Information Books(PDF1.9MB) for the use of emergency responders at all renewable energy facilities. Emergency Information Books contain key information for emergency responders arriving on-site during emergencies.

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