



**MCS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

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Important Information on MCS 012  
for MCS Solar Photovoltaic  
and Solar Thermal Contractors

# 1. PUBLICATION OF MCS 012

Please carefully read the important information below regarding the 05/04/2016 publication of the MCS 012 issue 2.1 update, specifically with regards to the implementation timeline and withdrawal date of the MCS 012 Issue 2.0:

Table 1: MCS 012 Issue 2.1 publication and implementation timeline

Description	Timeline or Implementation Date
MCS 012 Issue 2.1 published ( <i>MCS 012 Issue 2.0 withdrawn</i> )	05/04/2016
MCS 012 Issue 2.1 mandated for MCS compliant solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on pitched roofs	02/05/2016

## Implementation Timetable:

MCS 012 Issue 2.0 was withdrawn from the date of publication of MCS 012 issue 2.1. MCS 012 Issue 2.1 came into effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016.

MCS 012 became a mandatory requirement for MCS compliant Solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on pitched roofs from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016.

All MCS certified Contractors installing in line with the requirements of MIS 3002 which refer to MCS 012, must be using MCS 012 approved products (where applicable) since 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016. Both Solar Thermal and Solar PV installations must meet the building regulations.

All MCS certified Contractor companies installing in line with the requirements of MIS 3001 which refer to MCS 012, can use MCS 012 approved products (where applicable) as a way of meeting the building regulations.

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## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF MCS 012 FOR EXISTING QUOTES AND CONTRACTS

There will be quotes and contracts which span the implementation period for 'MCS 012 - Product Certification Scheme Requirements: Pitched Roof Installation Kits'. This guidance is to clarify the requirements for quotes and contracts in this position for both Solar Thermal (MIS 3001) installations and Solar PV (MIS 3002) installations.

### 2.1 MIS 3001 - Solar Thermal Installations

For existing quotes and contracts for Solar Thermal installations which span the period of implementation for MCS 012 please see the details below:

Table 2: Implementation of MCS 012 for Solar Thermal Installations

Contractual Arrangement	Clarification of Scheme Requirements
All new quotes / orders may use an MCS 012 Issue 2.1 kit or equivalent as set out in the current MIS 3001 standard as a route to demonstrating compliance with building regulations.	From 2nd May, Solar Thermal Contractors may use an MCS 012 Issue 2.1 kit or equivalent as set out in the current MIS 3001 standard as a route to achieving compliance with building regulations.
Existing quotes where no order has been received and not yet installed, i.e. no contract has been signed.	If the existing quote expires, the quote will be treated as new. The period of quote validity is to be determined by the MCS Contractor's standard quote validity policy, e.g. 1, 2, or 3 months etc.
Existing orders yet to be installed and installations that are in progress, i.e. a contract has been signed.	For MCS Contractors who have signed contracts in place prior to the 2nd May 2016, it is not required that Issue 2.1 of MCS 012 be met.
Annual Surveillance / Initial Assessment carried out by Certification Bodies.	The MCS Certification Bodies must assess that companies who have used an MCS 012 kit have met the requirements of MCS 012 Issue 2.1 or equivalent, from 2nd May 2016 (excluding exceptions noted above in this table).

## 2.2 MIS 3002 – Solar PV Installations

For existing quotes and contracts for Solar PV installations which span the period of implementation for MCS 012 please see the details below:

Table 3: Implementation of MCS 012 for Solar PV Installations

Contractual Arrangement	Clarification of Scheme Requirements
All new quotes / orders must be compliant with MCS 012 Issue 2.1 as set out in the current MIS 3002 standard.	From 2nd May 2016, Solar PV Contractors must use an MCS 012 Issue 2.1 kit as set out in the current MIS 3002 standard.
Existing quotes where no order has been received and not yet installed, i.e. no contract has been signed.	If the existing quote expires, the quote will be treated as new. The period of quote validity is to be determined by the MCS Contractor's standard quote validity policy, e.g. 1, 2, or 3 months etc.
Existing orders yet to be installed and installations that are in progress, i.e. a contract has been signed.	For MCS Contractors who have signed contracts in place prior to the 2nd May 2016, it is not required that Issue 2.1 of MCS 012 be met.
Annual Surveillance / Initial Assessment carried out by Certification Bodies.	The MCS Certification Bodies must assess that all companies have met the requirements of MCS 012 Issue 2.1 or equivalent, for installations from the 2nd May 2016.

### 3. PITCHED ROOF GUIDANCE

The MCS 012 became a mandatory requirement for MCS compliant Solar Photovoltaic (PV) installations on pitched roofs from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016. The MCS Roofing Issues Technical Working Group has been asked to clarify the definition of a pitched roof.

Definition	
<b>Pitched Roof</b>	A roof structure at $\geq 10^{\circ}$ <sup>i</sup> and $\leq 70^{\circ}$ <sup>ii</sup> to the horizontal.

For Solar PV installations, an MCS Contractor must use an MCS 012 approved kit if the roof pitch is  $\geq 10^{\circ}$  and  $\leq 70^{\circ}$  to the horizontal. An MCS Contractor may use an MCS 012 approved kit if the roof pitch is  $< 10^{\circ}$  if:

- The incline is within the declared pitch range of the kit chosen, as specified by the manufacturer for the roof installed on; and
- The kit is appropriate for the roof covering.

If an MCS 012 approved pitched roof installation kit is used, the MCS Contractor should indicate 'Yes' to the question, *please confirm the use of MCS 012 pitched roof installation kit as part of the installation* on the MCS Installation Database (MID).

Contractual Arrangement	Clarification of Scheme Requirements
All new quotes / orders must be compliant with MCS 012 Issue 2.1 as set out in the current MIS 3002 standard and an MCS 012 approved kit used in accordance with this guidance document.	From 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2017, Solar PV Contractors must use an MCS 012 approved kit where the roof is pitched in accordance with this guidance document.
Existing quotes where no order has been received and not yet installed, i.e. no contract has been signed.	If the existing quote expires, the quote will be treated as new. The period of quote validity is to be determined by the MCS Contractor's standard quote validity policy, e.g. 1, 2, or 3 months etc.
Existing orders yet to be installed and installations that are in progress, i.e. a contract has been signed.	For MCS Contractors who have signed contracts in place prior to the 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 where the roof is classified as pitched but an MCS 012

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	approved kit is not included in the contract, the installation may take place.
Annual Surveillance / Initial Assessment carried out by Certification Bodies.	The MCS Certification Bodies must assess that all MCS Contractors have used an MCS 012 approved kit where the roof is pitched in accordance with this guidance document from the 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2017.

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<sup>i</sup> BS 6229:2003 Code of practice for flat roofs with continuously supported coverings

<sup>ii</sup> The Building Regulations 2010 - Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture, Approved Document C, Clause 6.11

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