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Solar for flats

SolShare FAQs

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System integration & architecture

Inverter compatibility:

Can the SolShare be used with any standard three-phase, grid-tied inverter, or are there specific compatibility requirements (e.g., maximum current per phase, rating)?

The SolShare is compatible with any three-phase inverter. However, installation must adhere to the 35A per phase limitation, which typically restricts the maximum recommended input to a 20kW inverter. It is worth noting that modern inverters often permit oversizing (e.g., a 30kW DC array feeding a 20kW inverter). Crucially, the SAP calculation is based on the maximum DC capacity.

Installation location:

What is the required location for the SolShare unit in the electrical system architecture (e.g., relative to the inverter and the central main switchboard)?

There is no set requirement for the SolShare's physical location. It is also IP-rated (IP56), so it can be roof-mounted if internal space is limited. The SolShare has up to 15 outputs, so it is worth considering where these are routed. Installing the unit closer to the energy meters can mean smaller cable runs, which can reduce installation costs.

System integration & architecture

Output termination:

Where must the SolShare outputs be connected relative to the dwelling's meter and main switch? (i.e., upstream or downstream of the meter).

The SolShare solar point of connection will always be connected to the customer side of the meter, as is standard practice for any solar installation. This ensures the end-user is eligible for payments on any exported energy and receives the maximum benefits.

Scaling and capacity:

Can the SolShare system be scaled to accommodate a greater number of dwellings if the building is expanded or if additional SolShare units are required?

The SolShare is easily scalable. Systems are designed modularly: one array, one three-phase inverter, and one SolShare unit. This configuration can connect up to 15 flats. You can take this process for those 15 flats and essentially duplicate it for the remainder of the dwellings. Our projects typically range from 6 flats up to 350 or more.

Electrical & cabling requirements

Cabling rules (AC Outputs):

What specific cable types or wiring rules must be followed for the SolShare outputs (e.g., is SWA cable suitable, and why/why not)?

You can use the majority of AC cables as long as the installation is compliant with BS 7671 wiring regulations. The SolShare cable, if installed into the flat, must be terminated on an MCB that is not covered by an RCD (Residual Current Device). This must be a design consideration for cable routing.

It is worth noting that SWA (Steel Wire Armoured) cable is not suitable for the SolShare distribution cable because no neutral conductor is carried within that cable, and the ferrous material can be subject to induced eddy currents.

CT cable distance:

What is the maximum permissible distance for the Current Transformer (CT) cable run (tail length + extension) from the dwelling's connection point back to the SolShare unit?

The SolShare CT cable can be extended up to 100m. This can be extended via Belden 2-core twisted pair 24AWG cable. This is worth considering if the SolShare is roof-mounted.

Electrical & cabling requirements

Fire safety impact:

Does the SolShare simplify or complicate fire safety and cable routing requirements compared to traditional individual, in-unit systems?

The SolShare system operates solely on the AC side of the inverter. This drastically reduces the number of inverters required for the project, meaning you will only need to link the single inverter back to the fire alarm panels (or main system isolation point).

Performance, compliance and modelling

SAP compliance:

Does a SolShare installation qualify as a 'direct connection' for the purposes of PV credits, and what is the typical point uplift per dwelling?

Yes, being connected directly to the SolShare system impacts SAP and EPC performance just like a stand-alone dwelling. The kWp allocated to the apartment is what will be modelled into SAP. The kWp to each flat is allocated from the MAX DC (so, from whatever is on the roof).

EPC calculation:

How is the uplift calculated from the shared array, and what is the minimum allocation (kWp) that can be assigned to an individual dwelling to meet targets?

With the SolShare system, because we have access to a large, shared array, we can customise the allocation down to a 10W basis. This can really help with large discrepancies within an apartment block.

Performance, compliance and modelling

Technology Integration:

Are there any limitations regarding combining the SolShare with other optimization technologies, such as diverters or smart control systems?

You can use lots of complementary technologies with SolShare, including PV diverters. Please see our list of case studies which highlight these integrations.

EV charger integration:

Does the SolShare system offer any specific benefits or considerations when integrating with Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure?

The SolShare can provide solar energy to any demand it is connected to. So, if it is connected to a landlord's distribution board which has car chargers, then yes, it can supply PV energy to them.

Warranty & lifespan

Product warranty:

What are the specific warranty terms and expected operational lifespan for the SolShare unit itself?

SolShare comes with a 10-year warranty on parts and labour.

Solar installer certification

Course length:

How long does it take for a solar installer to become SolShare certified?

It’s a quick and easy process. Installers can complete the certification online, at their own pace and on their own schedule. From initial contact to full certification it takes up to 5 days.

For any questions about the training, installers can **contact us at** uk.info@allumeenergy.com.

Get in touch

uk.info@allumeenergy.com

Or submit an enquiry on our website.

Contact us