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WILL I NEED A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (COC) FOR MY SOLAR INSTALLATION?

A COC is short for Certificate of Compliance and this document confirms that the electrical installation was safely installed and is compliant with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 and its regulations.

Solar installations are electrical installations, and therefore fall under the scope of the Electrical Contracting Industry, like all other electrical installations. To ensure the safety of the installation and compliance with electrical regulations, the installation will need to be supported by a COC under the Electrical Installation Regulations, 2009 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993.

Any contractor installing solar systems, including the actual powering of the building and the installation of solar panels, must be an electrical contractor. According to the Electrical Installation Regulations (2009), an electrical contractor must be registered and must either be an accredited electrician himself or have a licensed electrician working for him full-time.

An Installation Electrician or Master Installation Electrician must oversee and manage all new solar installations. A COC for a solar installation can only be issued by an Installation Electrician (IE) or a Master Installation Electrician (MIE), who is registered with the Department of Labour. An accreditation certificate must be issued by the Department of Labour to the electrician.

It is important to note, that if an electrician is qualified to install a solar system, he is required to provide a COC that covers the Solar installation by means of a test report, that it is safely installed and compliant with legislation. This is in addition to the normal electrical COC.

In conclusion, it is very important to inform the sellers that a separate COC for a solar installation will be required together with the accreditation certificate from the Department of Labour of the electrician who issued the COC.