



Canadian Standards Association
Mississauga, Ontario
To the Part I Committee

Subject No. 3120

Chair: M.S. Anderson

Date: January 28, 2004

Title: Connection of DC Equipment, Rule 50-020(1)

Submitted by: Pat Cusack, ARISE Technologies Corporation, 321 Shoemaker Street, Kitchener, Ontario, N2E 3B3, Tel 519 725 2244, Fax 519 725 8907 on June 2, 2003

Proposal: Revise rule 50-020 (1) to read as follows:

(1) AC equipment shall be connected in compliance with Section 84. DC source circuits shall comply with section 50.

Reason for Request: The sub rule is not specific enough and leaves open to interpretation that DC equipment (such as pv panels and batteries) may be interconnected with the utility. DC equipment is not approved for interconnection, and the product standards such as ULC 1703 for PV modules do not approve the equipment for interconnection. In addition, only the inverter product standard, CSA 107.1, approves equipment for interconnection. Switches, disconnecting means, wire and cable standards, and other ac equipment is suitable for interconnection and meets the requirements of Section 84 and the balance of the CE code, but is not specifically approved for interconnection. Section 84 does not itself require that equipment be specifically approved for interconnection. It is a general requirement of the CE Code that equipment be used in the intended manner.

Supporting Information: Section 84 generally discusses the interconnection equipment. Rule 84-004 specifies the “outputs of consumer-owned electric power generators shall be interconnected ...” and Rule 84-008 (a) specifies that generators “Be automatically disconnected from all ungrounded conductors of the supply authority system.” This indicates that it is the ac equipment that is governed by Section 84. This should be reflected in the Section 50 rule so the rule is made more specific by referring to the AC equipment.

Rule 84-026 (1) (a), for example, requires that Disconnecting Means “Be capable of being energized from both sides” but does not require that it be specifically approved for interconnection. The last phrase of the current rule should therefore be removed. The new sentence re-enforces that the DC side of the PV installation is required to be in accordance with Section 50, but not Section 84, and reflects the reality that the DC equipment is not specifically approved for interconnection.

Chair’s Comments: I support the proposal.

Subcommittee Deliberations: The members of the Subcommittee all agreed with the proposal.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Support the proposal.