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Date:- 05.05.2025

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To
The Secretary,
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE),
Atal Akshaya Urja Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.

Subject: Request for MNRE Guidelines on Handling and Marking of B Grade Solar Panels

Respected Sir,

I am writing to bring to your kind attention a critical issue that is threatening the credibility, performance, and future of rooftop solar installations in India — the unregulated sale and installation of B Grade (rejected) solar modules in the market.

These B Grade panels — often rejected at the manufacturing stage due to visual or performance defects such as cracks, discoloration, lamination issues, or cell mismatches — are increasingly being sold without any warranty, service coverage, or MNRE approval. In the absence of any specific guidelines or control mechanisms, such panels are being deployed in rooftop installations, misleading consumers and undermining system reliability.

This issue is not only a threat to consumer trust and a cause of unfair market competition, but also a risk to national solar capacity goals. As India progresses toward its ambitious target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, including over 300 GW of solar installations, the indiscriminate use of B and even C Grade panels could significantly distort actual outcomes.

While we may install 300 GW of solar capacity on paper, the actual generation could fall drastically short due to the widespread use of substandard modules.

In this context, we respectfully urge MNRE to issue immediate and firm guidelines, including the following:

Mandatory Identification of B Grade Modules

- All B Grade (and C Grade, if permitted for sale) panels must carry permanent, visible markings or stickers indicating: **“B GRADE – Not Eligible for Government Subsidy / No Warranty / Substandard Output”**
- This marking must be clearly visible from the front side of the module to prevent misrepresentation at the time of installation.

Restricted Use and Sale

- The use of B Grade modules should be strictly prohibited in residential and commercial rooftop projects under Net-Metering and other schemes where there the installation data got counted for country's overall installation capacity.
- If permitted at all, their use must be limited to educational, research, or non-critical off-grid demonstration applications, with full consumer disclosure.

Manufacturer Reporting and Responsibility

- All solar module manufacturers must be mandated to declare the number of rejected panels, maintain a traceable record, and ensure such modules are sold only via authorized channels with full grade disclosure.

Inspection and Enforcement

- All implementing agencies, DISCOMs, and nodal inspection teams must verify the module grade at the time of installation.
- Any system using unmarked or B Grade modules must be deemed ineligible for Net-Metering.

The widespread availability of these panels at cheaper prices is creating severe distortions in the market, where genuine A Grade EPC players are unable to compete. More importantly, end users are unknowingly being deprived of long-term performance, which is essential for the financial viability of rooftop systems.

Without immediate regulatory control, this trend may seriously jeopardize India's solar mission, both in terms of performance delivery and data integrity.

We urge MNRE to take urgent action on this front.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to building a robust and credible renewable energy ecosystem in India.

Sincerely,

For Renewable Energy Association of Rajasthan (REAR)



Ajay Yadav
(President)