Certifier’s Experience with GSCN

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Introduction to SRCC

Role of the GSCN

Promises and Challenges of the GSCN

What’s Next for the GSCN?
Introduction to SRCC
Who we are and what we do.
About ICC-SRCC

- North American non-profit organization certifying solar thermal systems and components since the 1980’s
- ISO/IEC 17065 accredited Certification Body with several programs:
  - OG-100: Solar Thermal Collectors
  - OG-300: Solar Thermal Water Heating Systems
  - OG-400: Solar Pool Heating Systems
  - Listings: Codes and other referenced standards.
- Publish standards referenced in regulations using testing methods from ISO standards
- Certifications used by codes and rebate programs across North America
GSCN:
A Certifier’s Perspective
- Promise and Challenges
- Role
- What’s Next?
The Challenges

Differing requirements
- Certification
- Testing
- Inspection
- Labeling

Redundant certifications
- Retesting
- Reevaluation
- Reinspection
- Relabeling

Inefficiencies
- Cost
- Delays
- Market confusion
Impacts
How the solar thermal market is affected...

- Higher Product Prices
- Product Availability
- Project Delays
- Stifles Innovation
- Interregional Trade
- Marketplace Confusion
- Inconsistent Product Quality
Why not global certification?

- Worldwide variations in codes and regulations
  - Extent and type of regulations
  - Responsible parties
  - Enforcement type & consistency
  - Variable accreditation requirements
  - Risk factors & tolerance
  - Labeling mechanisms
  - Accreditation requirements

- Regional product preferences and construction practices
  - Infrastructure (e.g. water pressures, voltages)
  - Materials

- Climate differences

- Economics

- Protectionism

- Languages
Promise and Solutions
The Role of the GSCN in the Industry

01
Harmonize testing
- ISO 9806-2017
- Packaged systems
- New technologies
- Quality assurance between labs

02
Promote effective regulations
- Gather information on regulations
- Encourage use of harmonized standards

03
Support highly qualified inspector pool world-wide
- Consistent training

04
Advance awareness of solar thermal technologies
- Labeling
- Outreach and coordinated messaging
What’s Next for the GSCN?

- Upcoming activities in process and under discussion
  - Coordinating energy ratings for PVTs
  - Solar thermal promotion using the Solergy label
  - Training and resources for global inspectors
  - Validation of test results between labs

- Other opportunities
  - Harmonization of testing and rating approaches for packaged systems
  - Compilation of global regulatory requirements
  - Engage regions not currently represented, esp. UK, South America, Asia
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