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1 INTRODUCTION

This document provides information on First Solar Series 6 Modules of model types FS-6XXX and FS-6XXXA ("XXX" references the module power rating) for system designers, installers, and maintenance personnel. Model types FS-6XXXA contain an anti-reflective coating (ARC) on the front side surface. Series 6 Modules are designed to have a long operating life and high energy yield when installed, operated, and serviced in accordance with the instructions in this User Guide. All products within the same model series classification remain fully compatible with one another, even though there may be slight differences, provided appropriate system design practices are employed. Read this User Guide thoroughly before beginning any work related to the installation, operation, or maintenance of the First Solar Series 6 Module.

Please refer to your First Solar Module Warranty Terms & Conditions for module warranty terms and product return policies. Failure to follow this User Guide may void your warranty.

Keep this User Guide for future reference and provide to all subsequent owners or users of the solar modules.
2  SAFETY

All instructions and safety information should be read and understood before attempting to handle, install, or electrically connect First Solar modules. Failure to follow safety, installation, and handling instructions may result in injury. Only qualified personnel should install, operate, or maintain PV modules or systems.

Series 6 Modules are designed for 1000V systems at altitudes up to 5000 m (16404 ft) and 1500V systems at altitudes up to 3000 m (9842 ft) per IEC 61730-1.

Select installation locations and module support structures to ensure modules and connectors (open or mated) are never submerged in standing water.

DANGER  The Series 6 Modules may produce up to 275 Volts DC (VDC) and up to 4.0 Amps when exposed to sunlight. A single module or multiple interconnected modules can create a lethal shock hazard during daylight hours, including periods of low light levels. The danger increases as modules are connected together in series and/or parallel.

DANGER  To avoid fire and/or injury due to ground faults and associated electrical hazards:

- Do not unplug PV module connections while under load. Do not disconnect the module connectors during daylight hours unless the module is in an open circuit condition.
- Replace modules with damaged wires immediately. Keep all array wiring out of reach of non-qualified personnel.
- Do not concentrate light on the module in an attempt to increase power output.
- Never allow the PV array system voltage to exceed 1500VDC under any condition.
- Replace broken modules immediately.
- Repair ground faults immediately.
- Do not work on modules or systems when the modules or wiring is wet.
- All building mounted PV systems should utilize Ground Fault Detector Interrupters (GFDI) and ARC Fault Circuit Interrupters to minimize risk of electrical shocks and fires.

Series 6 Modules have a maximum series fuse rating of 6.0A as defined by UL 1703 and a maximum overcurrent protection rating of 6.0A as defined by IEC 61730-1/IEC 61730-2. PV systems should be designed to comply with and provide module overcurrent protection consistent with local codes.
The conditions necessary to trigger reverse current overload (RCOL) in Series 6 Modules do not occur in typical operating modes of a properly installed PV system. The system designer should ensure that modules are not subjected to RCOL. The use of GFDI devices or other advanced fault monitoring techniques can significantly reduce the likelihood of sustained ground faults. Properly selected and installed string fuses can increase protection against RCOL.

**DANGER**

**Reverse currents** higher than the rated values for a First Solar module, may result in module failure, including module breakage due to RCOL. Extreme and continuous RCOL conditions may cause a fire or create electrical shock hazards. To avoid RCOL:

- Maintain equivalent voltage in parallel strings by installing an equal number of modules per string within the same source circuit. Failure to install modules with balanced voltage in parallel strings can result in voltage imbalance.
- Incorporate measures to protect modules against RCOL for connections of parallel strings.

Modules damaged because of system-induced RCOL are not covered under the First Solar Module Warranty. Module warranty eligibility is not affected by the presence, absence, or type of reverse current protection used in a system design.

**CAUTION**

**Wear safety glasses** and **cut-resistant gloves** when working with non-interconnected modules or system components. **Wear electrically rated PPE** when working with interconnected modules or system components. Select PPE based on work consistent with local and/or national standards.

**WARNING**

To avoid risk of fire, do NOT interconnect Series 6 Modules with other FS Series Modules (e.g. – Series 4, Series 3, or Series 2) within the same interconnected string, inverter, or Maximum Power Point Tracker.
3 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

It is the responsibility of the installer and/or system integrator to ensure compliance with all local structural and electrical codes, which may be applicable to the installation and use of First Solar Series 6 Modules.

- For systems installed in Canada, installation shall be in accordance with CSA C22.1, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations, Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1.

For systems installed in North America, First Solar Series 6 Modules are Listed by a Nationally Recognized Test Laboratory (NRTL) to UL 1703, the standard for Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panels. To maintain the modules’ application as a UL Listed product:

- Use only components that have been Recognized or Listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) for their intended purpose.
- Ensure the PV array open-circuit voltage does not exceed 1500 VDC (1000 VDC for UL Canada).
- Install modules with mounting systems that have been evaluated for UL Listed application.
- Protect modules from reverse currents in excess of the 6.0A maximum series fuse rating.

Series 6 Modules are tested and certified per IEC 61730-1/IEC 61730-2 and meet Class II requirements for 1500VDC systems.

Series 6 Modules are tested and certified per IEC 61215-1/IEC 61215-1-2/IEC 61215-2 for a maximum system voltage of 1500V.
4 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION & RATINGS

4.1 PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION & RATINGS

Each module is equipped with a product label on the back and a laser-etched serial number on the front glass. The label identifies the model number, nameplate electrical ratings, and safety information.

The ratings in Table 1 are UL Listed with a tolerance of ±10% unless otherwise noted.

**NOTICE:** Electrical specifications are subject to change. See label for final electrical ratings.

**Table 1:** Model Numbers & Ratings at Standard Test Conditions (STC\(^1\))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODEL NUMBERS</th>
<th>RATED POWER(^2) ((-0/+5%))</th>
<th>VOLTAGE AT PMAX (V_{\text{MAX}}(V))</th>
<th>CURRENT AT PMAX (I_{\text{MAX}}(A))</th>
<th>OPEN CIRCUIT VOLTAGE (V_{\text{OC}}(V))</th>
<th>SHORT CIRCUIT CURRENT (I_{\text{SC}}(A))</th>
<th>MAXIMUM SYSTEM VOLTAGE (V_{\text{SYS}}(V))</th>
<th>MAXIMUM SERIES FUSE (I_{\text{CF}}(A))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS-6390/FS-6390A</td>
<td>390.0</td>
<td>173.9</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td>214.8</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6395/FS-6395A</td>
<td>395.0</td>
<td>175.0</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>215.4</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6400/FS-6400A</td>
<td>400.0</td>
<td>176.1</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>216.1</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6405/FS-6405A</td>
<td>405.0</td>
<td>177.2</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>216.8</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6410/FS-6410A</td>
<td>410.0</td>
<td>178.3</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>217.4</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6415/FS-6415A</td>
<td>415.0</td>
<td>179.3</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>218.1</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6420/FS-6420A</td>
<td>420.0</td>
<td>180.4</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>218.5</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6425/FS-6425A</td>
<td>425.0</td>
<td>181.5</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>218.9</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6430/FS-6430A</td>
<td>430.0</td>
<td>182.6</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>219.2</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6435/FS-6435A</td>
<td>435.0</td>
<td>183.6</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>219.6</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6440/FS-6440A</td>
<td>440.0</td>
<td>184.7</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>220.0</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS-6445/FS-6445A</td>
<td>445.0</td>
<td>185.7</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>220.4</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) As received and stabilized ratings at STC (1000W/m², AM 1.5 25 °C Cell Temperature) ±10%

\(^2\) Measurement uncertainty applies

\(^3\) 1000V Listed for UL Canada
4.2 SYSTEM DERATING FACTORS

Under normal operation, a PV module may experience conditions that produce higher current and/or voltage than reported at STC. Accordingly, the values of Isc and Voc listed for STC should be multiplied by a factor of 1.25 when determining component voltage ratings, conductor current ratings, and size of controls connected to the PV output. For UL installations, an additional 1.25 safety factor may be applicable, reference the National Electric Code (NEC) Article 690 for further details. Specific site conditions and local electric code requirements must be used for determining the maximum system voltage.

When calculating module Voc at 125 mW/cm², AM 1.5 spectrum, and cell temperature of -10°C, multiply the specific model type STC listed Voc value by a factor of 1.098. When calculating module Isc at 125 mW/cm², AM 1.5 spectrum, and cell temperature of 75°C, multiply the specific model type STC listed Isc value by a factor of 1.275.
When handling packs using forklifts or other mechanical aids, ensure uniform pack support, and the forks fully extend under the pallet. Series 6 packs can be lifted from either the short or long side of the pallet. Forklifts must engage the pallet a minimum of 1.3 m (51 in) for long side engagement and a minimum of 1.5 m (59 in) for short side engagement. Failure to meet engagement lengths may damage pallet and modules on bottom of pack.

Modules on a pack may lean or shift on a pallet during shipping. Module packs can be safely unloaded as long as the plastic banding straps are not broken.

Only originally banded, fully intact and loaded packs may be stacked for storage up to two high for extended periods. Series 6 packs should not be stacked if rebanded on site, are not fully loaded, any corner braces or top cap material has been removed, or if any banding is broken from the pack.

- Do not transport stacked packs around project site.
- Do not attempt to transport the pack once the straps have been removed.

Please evaluate site conditions for safe pack storage as uneven or recently disturbed ground and moisture may affect pack stability. Series 6 packs should not be exposed to standing water higher than the height of the pallet.

The pack’s cap includes two green markings for module orientation purposes. The long edge orientation mark corresponds to the side of the module with the positive junction box cable.

**WARNING**

Open the packaging with care. A single person should not attempt to lift a Series 6 Module. **Lift the modules from the pallet with two or more persons or with lift assist.** Do not attempt to lift multiple modules off the stack at the same time.

**Figure 1:** Example Series 6 Module Pack
## MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS

**Table 2:** Mechanical Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFICATIONS</th>
<th>SERIES 6 MODULES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>2009 mm +3/-1 mm (79.1 +0.11 / -0.04 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>1232 mm ± 5 mm (48.5 ± 0.2 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness</td>
<td>49 mm ± 1 mm (1.9 ± 0.04 in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Area</td>
<td>2.47 m² (26.5 ft²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Weight</td>
<td>36 ± 1 kg (79 ± 2.2 lbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junction Box Lead Wire</td>
<td>2.5 mm² (14 AWG), 720 mm (28.35 in) (+) &amp; Bulkhead (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Performance</td>
<td>Class A Spread of Flame / Class C Burning Brand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Temperature</td>
<td>-40°C to +85°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Length from junction box exit to connector mating surface  
5 Module UL 1730 fire rating is valid only when mounted in the manner specified in this User Guide. Roof mounted fire rating is established by assessing rack and module as a unit.

**Figure 2:** Series 6 Module Mechanical Drawing

Module frames may be configured with either a single or dual cross brace design as shown in Figure 2.
**Figure 3:** Grounding Hole & Wire Management Hole Locations Symmetric from Frame Center

![Grounding Hole & Wire Management Hole Locations Symmetric from Frame Center](image)

**Figure 4:** Frame End View

![Frame End View](image)
7 INSTALLATION & MOUNTING

7.1 MOUNTING

It is best practice to complete heavy construction and trenching prior to module installation to minimize module exposure to dust. Ensure any site preparation or maintenance chemicals (soil binding agents or chemicals used for on-site dust control or weed control) do not spray, splash, or drift onto the surface of the modules or its associated components.

It is the responsibility of the qualified engineer and/or qualified installer to ensure the system and its components meet applicable structural and electrical code requirements for the product application’s jurisdiction. First Solar is not responsible for bonding failure, breakage, damage, wear, corrosion, or module performance issues that are deemed to be caused by design or installation practices that do not comply with this User Guide.

CAUTION

Safety hazards or potentially unsafe practices:

- Do not install the modules during high wind or wet conditions.
- Handle modules with care during installation, as heavy impact to the front, back, or edges could result in damage to the module. Do not walk, stand, or sit on modules.
- Do not carry multiple modules on top of one another after removal from pack.
- Do not lift or pull on modules using lead wire or junction boxes.
- Do not rest objects (such as tools, etc.) on module glass.

Modules must have adequate ventilation and airflow to prevent operating temperatures above 85°C.

For rooftop mounting, mount modules over a fire resistant roof covering rated for the application. The recommended minimum standoff height is 8 cm (3.15 in). The Series 6 Modules may be installed at an installation angle up to 60°.
7.2 MOUNTING LOCATIONS & LOAD RATINGS

The interface of the mounting structure to the module frame must meet the technical requirements specified in this User Guide. The mounting system design must provide adequate support for the module to prevent load damage from occurring based on the loading requirements for the given application and the chosen mounting locations. Structures must not come into direct contact with the surface or edges of the module glass.

Modules can be secured to the support structure with top (front side) mounting clamps or by frame slots (known as SpeedSlots).

The module meets the following load ratings when mounted as specified in this User Guide and evaluated according to the listed standard in Table 3.

Table 3: Load Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Design Load</th>
<th>Test Load</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IEC 61215</td>
<td>± 1600 Pa (± 33.4 lb/ft²)</td>
<td>± 2400 Pa (± 50.1 lb/ft²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UL 1703</td>
<td>± 1436 Pa (± 30 lb/ft²)</td>
<td>± 2154 Pa (± 45 lb/ft²)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Top clamp mounting range: 400 mm to 1200 mm
- SpeedSlot clamp mounting locations: 400 mm, 800 mm, and 1200 mm

Symmetrically secure the module using a minimum of four frame contact points regardless if mounted from the top or through SpeedSlot. Other mounting methods not discussed in this User Guide are not permitted unless evaluated and approved by First Solar (technicalsupport@firstsolar.com).

- The modules shall have a minimum spacing gap of 6 mm (0.24 in) between each other. Usable junction box lead wire lengths accommodate spacing up to 245 mm (9.65 in) (assuming no substructure interference).
- Do not use module frame ends (1232 mm length) or center cross braces for mounting.
- Do not modify the module frame in any way. This includes drilling additional holes, altering mounting features (slots), or otherwise cutting, trimming, or shaping any part of the module frame.
- Module mounting structure support under clamps must maintain a minimum length of 35 mm (1.38 in) and maintain full frame bottom flange engagement under load.
- Module attachment hardware (i.e. clamps, bolts, etc.) must not contact the module glass.
- Tighten clamps to the torque stated by the mounting hardware manufacturer.
- Mounting clamps certified/designated to electrically bond and/or ground the module frame are allowed when used in accordance with the clamp manufacturer’s instructions.
- The maximum clamp force shall not exceed 5500N for either top or SpeedSlot clamps.
- Minor clamp deformation under load may be acceptable as long as clamping force requirements are maintained and the deformation does not contribute to a weakening of the clamp or dislodgement of the module.
7.3 TOP MOUNTING

Top mounting clamps should be mounted within the frame SpeedSlot ranges depicted in Figure 2. Top mounting clamps must have a uniform frame engagement area of 9 mm (0.35 in) minimum width on the top ledge and 30 mm (1.18 in) minimum length as depicted below in Figure 5. Clamps that do not meet the minimum requirements may not preserve module certifications or warranty and must be evaluated by First Solar (technicalsupport@firstsolar.com).

Figure 5: Example Top Clamp

Figure 6: Example Shared Top Clamp
7.4 SPEEDSLOT MOUNTING

The Series 6 Module frames include six SpeedSlots (See Figure 9 and 10 for details). SpeedSlot clamps must either extend 10 mm (0.39 in) beyond the inner edge of the frame or have a retention feature to prevent module frame dislodgement under load. SpeedSlot clamps must be at least 12 mm (0.47 in) wide from attachment point through the 10 mm (0.39 in) extension or until point of retention feature. Clamps should rest on flat surface of SpeedSlot.

**Figure 7:** Example of SpeedSlot clamp

**Figure 8:** Shared SpeedSlot clamp

**Figure 9:** SpeedSlot dimensions

**Figure 10:** SpeedSlot detail on frame
7.5 MODULE ORIENTATION

PV performance modeling software, such as PlantPredict (www.PlantPredict.com) should be used to determine the optimum orientation and tilt angle for each location.

Mount modules in portrait orientation for applications where row-to-row shading could occur. Landscape orientation is permitted only in flat mount applications where the module long edge is not completely shaded and when compliant with Section 7.6 Module Shading Considerations.

7.6 MODULE SHADING CONSIDERATIONS

Specific shading patterns can cause damage to module cells due to the creation of localized areas of reverse bias. Reverse bias is generated by one or more series-connected cells being shaded while the rest of the cells are fully illuminated. When at-risk shading patterns occur, damage can occur in short durations (seconds to minutes) and a wide range of irradiance (as low as 160 W/m²).

There is no risk of module damage due to shading that occurs while modules are in open circuit. Shading that occurs at a distance greater than 2 m (6.6 ft), also known as diffuse shading, carries minimal risk and should be avoided where possible. Row-to-row shading of modules installed in portrait orientation is acceptable.

There is a low risk of module damage due to shading from repeatedly walking or standing in front of operating modules or from repeatedly parking or driving vehicles in front of operating modules during illuminated times. It is best practice to stay close to the backside of the adjacent rack as one travels down a row of operating modules.

Do not subject modules to high risk shading instances listed below:

- Resting or adhering slender objects (tools, brooms, clothing, wires, tape) on front-side of operating modules, or when within ~1.5 to 2 m (~4.9 to 6.6 ft) above operating modules, especially when the shadow is oriented parallel to cells
- Fixed objects within ~1.5 to 2 m (~4.9 to 6.6 ft) above operating modules that cast a shadow over the long dimension of the cells. Close objects (posts, ropes, fences, etc.) can begin to increase risk of partial shading of full cells when within ~1.5 to 2 m (~4.9 to 6.6 ft) from the front-side of operating module
- A support frame or mounting method on the long edge(s) of modules that fully shades the entire length of a cell (either partially or completely)
- Cleaning robots or other mechanisms that traverse the module while the system is operating
- Row-to-row shading when the modules are installed in landscape orientation
7.7 INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR ARC MODULES

Model types containing the letter ‘A’ (FS-6XXXA) include ARC on the front side surface.

- Handle with gloves to preserve visual appearance of ARC modules.
- During handling and installation, do not make abrasive contact with top glass surface to prevent scratches of ARC film.

7.8 WIRE MANAGEMENT

All wire management must comply with the applicable local requirements (i.e. - NEC/IEC codes and standards) for maintaining and managing wires.

Typically, the Series 6 Module lead wire connection does not require wire retention or securement due to the proximity of the junction boxes on adjacent modules.

Above-ground DC cabling (typically a bundle of harness and homerun PV cables) may be supported by utilizing the wire management holes located on the Series 6 frame. The module frame includes four 5.6 mm (0.22 in) wire management holes in locations depicted in Figures 2 and 3. The maximum cable weight carried by each module in totality may not exceed 3.5 kg (7.6 lbs).

7.9 ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION

All electric components that are interconnected to modules must have an operating voltage range that matches the maximum power point of the array, and be capable of operating the array at the maximum power point at all times.

Short circuit operation is permitted only during short duration system safety testing or in fail-safe system states.

Series 6 Modules are pre-configured with industry standard connectors that are “touch proof” with all live parts protected against accidental contact and protected against polarity reversal. The cables and connectors are UV and weather resistant from -40°C to +85°C, and rated for 1500VDC and 35A (ambient temperature).

Series 6 Modules use Staubli produced (http://ec.staubli.com) MC4-EVO 2 connectors (PV-KST-EVO2/ PV-KBT-EVO2). Module-to-module and module-to-harness interconnection is advised to be done between same manufacturer and type of connectors. First Solar cannot guarantee that different connector types will be compatible in every connection instance.
CAUTION

Damaged wires, connectors, or junction boxes may cause ground faults, and associated electrical hazards, including electrical shock. To avoid these conditions:

- Protect unmated connectors from dust and moisture by using sealing caps (not provided, available from connector manufacturer).
- Limit module connectors to 10 or fewer plug cycles.
- Do not pull junction box lead wires tight. After installation, connected wire must not be under stress or tension.
- The minimum module junction box lead wire bend radius is five times the wire diameter. Observe minimum bend radius specifications on all other PV system wiring.
- Do not use junction box assembly to bear weight greater than that of a (properly wire managed) module’s own wire and mated connection.
- Secure wire or connected components so they are hanging greater than 0.46 m (1.5 ft) above the ground in free field applications, and so they are hanging clear of roof coverings or pooled water in rooftop applications.
- Ensure connectors are fully mated and locking clip on connector engages.
- Do not loosen, alter, or modify the factory-installed connectors on the module junction box. Do not attempt to unscrew or tighten connector back nut.
- Ensure wire securement methods, such as use of cable ties, do not damage wire insulation.
- Ensure wires are not in contact with sharp edges of the mounting structure to avoid abrading the wire sheath.
- Inspect and maintain wire management requirements over the life of the plant.

Wiring harnesses are recommended in system designs with Series 6 Modules. The shorter string size and low string current of Series 6 Modules make it possible to connect multiple strings together in parallel and return a single pair of DC cables to the combiner box or string inverter. Design wiring harnesses that are optimal for the structural layout. For example, a structure with 84 modules per row typically uses two, 7-string harnesses in the DC design in a 1500V system.

Components used to interconnect the modules must be compatible with the connectors, and provide proper system operation and fault protection as required by applicable codes. Field wiring must be rated for 90°C, and be of a type approved for use in accordance with the NEC (US only).

7.10 INVERTER COMPATIBILITY

Series 6 Modules are compatible with a range of string, central, transformer, and transformerless inverters. When connecting modules or module strings in series ensure inverter ratings are appropriate.

Do not exceed system design voltage and inverter design specifications when connecting Series 6 Modules in a series string. This is typically ensured by limiting series strings to four modules for 1000 VDC applications or six modules for 1500 VDC applications.

The Maximum Power Point (MPP) voltage of a module array must be considered for compatibility with the specified inverter MPP window. Similar to the maximum open-circuit voltage, the MPP voltage of the array is dependent on ambient conditions, and the system should be designed to ensure the array MPP voltage remains within the MPP window for expected operating conditions.
7.11 GROUNDING METHOD

For North America, a module with exposed conductive parts is considered to comply with UL 1703 only when it is electrically grounded in accordance with the instructions presented and the requirements of NFPA 70: National Electrical Code, article 250.

First Solar recommends Series 6 Modules be used in negative-grounded systems. Series 6 Modules must not be subjected to negative voltage bias conditions that can occur in floating or bi-polar systems (subjecting modules to conditions that could drive potential induced degradation). If traditional negative grounding is not used, alternative methods of preventing negative voltage bias on modules, such as the use of system level voltage controllers (i.e. float controllers) or integrated inverter array voltage control, must be implemented and must include hourly (at minimum) logged PV (-ve) to ground voltage to demonstrate compliance in event of a future warranty evaluation. Series 6 Modules must not be used in positive-grounded systems.

Utilize marked grounding holes (see Figure 12) in frame or UL/IEC Listed grounding/bonding hardware. Where using common grounding hardware (lugs, nuts, bolts, star washers, split-ring lock washers, flat washers and the like) to attach a listed grounding/bonding device, the attachment must be in conformance with the grounding device manufacturer’s instructions.

Grounding kits containing #8-32 (M4x0.7) self-threading stainless steel components (Example: Self-threading Screw, flat washer, cup washer, and toothed washer) or other compatible UL/IEC listed hardware can be used to attach copper grounding wire to one of the frame’s marked grounding holes per manufacturer instructions. Example: Slide the flat washer on the screw, followed by the cupped toothed washer with the smaller end of the cup washer closest to the cap bolt head. Affix the copper grounding wire between the flat washer and the cupped toothed washer and tighten the screw securely into the frame grounding hole.

Common hardware items (such as nuts, bolts, star washers, lock washers and the like) that have not been evaluated or certified for electrical conductivity or for use as grounding devices, should be used only for maintaining mechanical connections and holding electrical grounding devices in proper position for electrical conductivity. Such devices, where supplied with the module and evaluated through the requirements in UL 1703, may be used for grounding connections in accordance with the instructions provided with the module.

In order to provide a reliable grounding connection to the Series 6 Module frame for model types FS-6XXX or FS-6XXXXA, the following hardware or equivalent is required per UL 1703:

- A UL Listed Grounding Lug with paint cutting star washer and #8-32 by 3/8 inch thread forming screw.
- A UL Listed grounding strap type EM2050 as manufactured by Electric Motion CO. Inc.
- Grounding means must be secured to grounding hole opening on frame and torqued to 25 in-lbs.

Mounting clamps that are UL listed for grounding/bonding may be used in instances where the structure and module have been tested to meet UL 2703.
8 MAINTENANCE

8.1 MAINTENANCE

Only qualified personnel should perform maintenance on PV systems. Maintenance (cleaning, electrical inspection, etc.) may pose a risk of electrical shock, injury, or module damage.

A regular inspection and maintenance schedule should include, but is not limited to:

- Annually at a minimum, inspect modules for any signs of damage or broken glass. Replace broken modules immediately.
- Keep modules free from debris, particulates, or large volumes of snow to maximize system performance.
- Ensure the module surface pressure is at or below the design load by removing snow.
- Inspect wiring and wire management periodically.
- Inspect and confirm electrical connections are tight and corrosion free.

The most common causes of lower than expected PV system power output are:

- Improperly calibrated or malfunctioning monitoring equipment
- Inverter failure
- Improper or faulty field wiring or connections
- Blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers
- Excessive amounts of dirt and dust on the modules
- Shading of modules by trees, poles, or buildings

It is normal for the modules to exhibit visual irregularities, which do not impact power. ARC modules are more likely to exaggerate the visual appearance of scratches, fingerprints, and other blemishes due to the optical properties of the glass interface.

Snowdrifts may result in a non-uniform loading of modules. If it is expected that snow loads will exceed design, clear snow from modules to ensure that ice/thaw/freeze cycles under snow drifts do not result in excessive stresses on the module. Snow may be cleared from the modules by using the Dry Cleaning Guidelines (Table 5).
8.2 MODULE CLEANING GUIDANCE

In most climates, First Solar modules do not require cleaning. Installed modules may collect a light layer of dust and/or dirt (soiling) over time and periodic rainfall should be sufficient to remove light soiling in most cases. If cleaning is performed to maximize system performance, please follow the below guidelines.

[CAUTION] Cleaning activities create risk of damage to the modules and array components, as well as the potential for electric shock. Failure to comply with the Module Cleaning Guidance may reduce energy enhancing effects of anti-reflective coating.

[CAUTION] Cracked or broken modules represent a shock hazard due to leakage currents. The risk of shock increases when modules are wet. Before cleaning, thoroughly inspect modules for cracks, damage, and loose connections.

Clean modules only when in open circuit – either disconnected from load, or during times when the inverter is off.

First Solar (technicalsupport@firstsolar.com) must review and approve of:

- Automated, manual or motorized cleaning tools and methods
- Cleaning fixtures or tools which are supported by or rest on modules

Acceptable cleaning methods vary depending on whether or not the modules include ARC.

- Only clean the front side of modules. Do not spray water at sealed interfaces of module.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners or degreasers, cleaning solutions containing hydrochloric acid, D-Limonene, ammonia, or sodium hydroxide on any module type.
- Do not use Wet-Contact Cleaning, including any combination of water and scrubbing/wiping with agitating tool, on ARC modules.
- Excessively soiled spots on modules (i.e. bird droppings) may be spot-cleaned with soft cloth or mop and water if necessary for localized cleaning only (<10% of module area).
Table 4: Wet Cleaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WET CLEANING GUIDELINES (WATER REQUIREMENTS)</th>
<th>NON-ARC MODULES (FS-6XXX)</th>
<th>ARC MODULES (FS-6XXA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RO water, Fresh water: TDS &lt; 1500 mg/L (2.91*10^-3 slug/ft³), low mineral tap water, or deionized water; Conductivity &lt;250 mS/cm, Chlorides ≤ 250 mg/mL (0.49 slug/ft³)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard water (must be squeegeed off to prevent scale buildup)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water temperature must be ± 20 °C from module temperature applied with water pressure &lt;35 bar (500 psi) at nozzle</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Dry Cleaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRY CLEANING GUIDELINES</th>
<th>NON-ARC MODULES (FS-6XXX)</th>
<th>ARC MODULES (FS-6XXA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agitating brushes or sponges: Non-conductive nylon, or similar material; non-abrasive to glass, aluminum, or steel</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry cleaning with soft cloths or mops (limited to &lt;12 times annually for ARC modules)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.3 MODULE DISPOSAL

Modules may be recycled or disposed of in accordance with applicable local requirements.

Please visit [www.firstsolar.com/modules/recycling](http://www.firstsolar.com/modules/recycling) for further details on the recycling program.
### REVISION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVISION NUMBER</th>
<th>AMENDMENT DETAILS</th>
<th>REVISION DATE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Document created</td>
<td>12/19/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Updated from single to dual crossbar frame design; Handling and Storage update.</td>
<td>7/31/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Added single and dual crossbar frame designs; Updated UL grounding information, added system derating information, updated Handling and Storage section. Added SpeedSlot nomenclature.</td>
<td>2/15/2019</td>
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