UL 2703

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Mounting Systems, Mounting Devices, Clamping/Retention Devices, and Ground Lugs for Use with Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panels

UL Standard for Safety for Mounting Systems, Mounting Devices, Clamping/Retention Devices, and Ground Lugs for Use with Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panels, UL 2703

First Edition, Dated January 28, 2015

Summary of Topics

This revision of ANSI/UL 2703 dated June 11, 2025 includes the following changes in requirements:

– Clarifications to the Clamp Load Calculation Method, Including Added definitions, Examples, References and the Addition of a Table Showing K-Factor Used in the Clamp Load Calculation; 2.13A, 2.13B, 2.22A, 6.2A, 6.5 – 6.6D, Table 6.1, 26.1, 26.2, Appendix C – Appendix F

– Additional Fire Types to Exception in 11.1(a);

– Clarification on Current and Time to be Selected for the Optional Short-Time Current Test Referenced in 22.1 (note)

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by ULSE's electronic publishing system is marked with a vertical line in the margin.

The new and revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated April 4, 2025.

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1

UL 2703

Standard for Mounting Systems, Mounting Devices, Clamping/Retention Devices, and Ground Lugs for Use with Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panels

First Edition

January 28, 2015

This ANSI/UL Standard for Safety consists of the First Edition including revisions through June 11, 2025.

The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 2703 as an American National Standard (ANSI) occurred on June 11, 2025. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, and Title Page.

Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to ULSE at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in the Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at https://csds.ul.com.

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CONSTRUCTION

PERFORMANCE

RATINGS

MARKINGS

INSTRUCTIONS

APPENDIX A Standards for Components

INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover rack mounting systems, mounting grounding/bonding devices, and clamping/retention devices for specific (manufacturer/model designation) flat-plate photovoltaic modules and panels that comply with the Standard for Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panels, UL 1703, or the Standard for Photovoltaic (PV) Module Safety Qualification – Part 1: Requirements For Construction, UL 61730-1 and the Standard for Photovoltaic (PV) Module Safety Qualification – Part 2: Requirements For Testing, UL 61730-2, intended for installation on or integral with buildings, or to be freestanding (i.e., not attached to buildings), in accordance with the National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70 and Model Building Codes. Systems, components and/or devices evaluated under this standard may be used to ground and/or mount a PV module complying with UL 1703 or UL 61730-1 and UL 61730-2 when the specific module or frame has been evaluated for bonding/grounding or the module has been evaluated for mounting with the evaluated system, component or device.

1.2 These requirements cover rack mounting systems and clamping devices intended for use with photovoltaic module systems with a maximum system voltage of 1500 V.

1.3 These requirements cover rack mounting systems, clamping, retention devices pertaining to ground/bonding paths, mechanical strength, and suitability of materials only.

1.4 These requirements do not cover:

a) Equipment intended to accept the electrical output from the array, such as power conditioning units (inverters) and batteries.

b) Solar trackers or tracker mechanisms (except as specifically directed as to be utilized by the Standard for Solar Trackers, UL 3703 and in combination with UL 3703).

c) Cell assemblies intended to operate under concentrated sunlight.

d) Optical concentrators.

e) Combination photovoltaic-thermal modules or panels.

f) Equipment intended to carry current as a normal function of that component, such as combiner boxes, connection boxes (other than connection box for grounding), wireways and enclosures housing live parts. See the Standard for Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panels, UL 1703 or the Standard for Photovoltaic (PV) Module Safety Qualification – Part 1: Requirements For Construction, UL 61730-1, or the Standard for Inverters, Converters, Controllers and Interconnection System Equipment for Use With Distributed Energy Resources, UL 1741.

g) Ground rods and ground rod accessories.

h) The mechanical and structural requirements of the international building code. See (i).

Note: The IBC and other model codes may have additional requirements. As an example, compliance with the IBC will require development load combinations which include dead, snow, wind and seismic forces using ASCE 7. These loads will need to be applied in three orthogonal directions and the load resisting elements of the system will be required to adequately support the applied loads.

i) Roof attachments for above roof mounting.

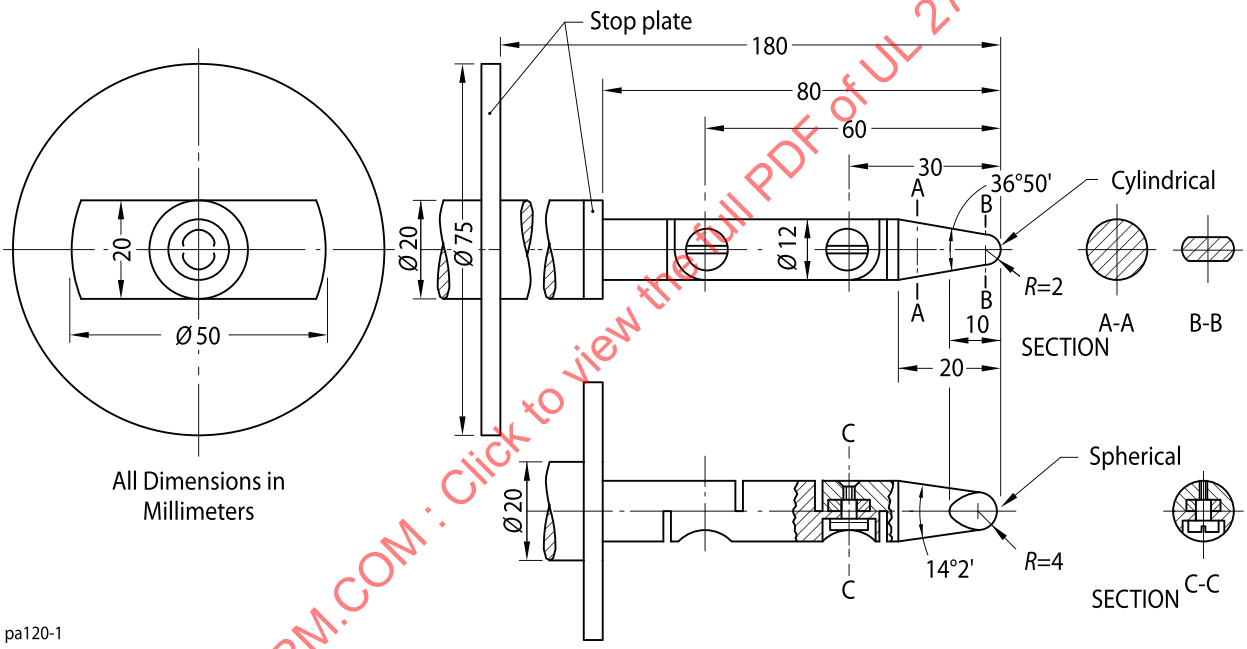
2 Glossary

2.1 For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply.

2.2 ACCESSIBLE – A part is considered accessible if, in a fully assembled rack mounting system (that is, with all covers in place) the part may be touched by the probe illustrated in Figure 2.1. A cover that may be removed without the use of a tool is to be removed for purposes of this requirement. A cover that may be removed (with or without a tool) for routine maintenance such as cleaning, or to gain access to tools, is to be removed for purposes of this requirement. The probe illustrated in Figure 2.1 shall be applied to up to any depth that the opening will permit, up to a maximum of 35 inches; and shall be rotated or angled before, during, and after insertion through the opening to any position that is necessary to examine the product. The probe shall be applied in any possible configuration; and, if necessary, the configuration shall be changed after insertion through the opening. The probe is to be used as a measuring instrument to judge the accessibility provided by an opening, and not as an instrument to judge the strength of a material; as such, it is to be applied with the minimum force necessary to accurately determine accessibility.

Figure 2.1

Probe for determining accessibility of live parts



2.3 AC MODULE – The smallest complete unit that includes solar cells, optics, inverters, and other components, excluding tracking devices, intended to generate ac power from sunlight.

2.4 ABOVE ROOF MOUNTING (including rack-mounted style installations) – Installations that are spaced away from the building's roof member.

2.5 ARRAY – A mechanically-integrated assembly of modules or panels with a support structure and foundation, tracking, thermal control, and other components, if used, to form a power-producing unit.

2.6 BOLT – A type of fastener. For the purposes of this document the requirements for “cap screws” will apply to bolts as well. See cap screw, 2.11.

2.7 BONDING – Electrically connecting all metal components to the point of the equipment ground conductor.

2.8 BONDING DEVICE – A device for bonding and may include a function to pierce non-conductive coatings such as but not limited to; anodization, paint, vitreous enamel, and may be a separate piercing device or integral to the component to perform the bonding function.

a) SINGLE USE BONDING DEVICES – Bonding device intended for use one time only.

b) MULTIPLE USE BONDING DEVICE – Bonding device intended for multiple use according to the device's installation instructions.

2.9 BONDING STRAP – A solid, multi-strand or braided copper, copper-clad aluminum or aluminum conductor (and may be tin or zinc plated) with factory crimped terminations to allow bonding of components.

2.10 CELL – The basic photovoltaic device that generates electricity when exposed to sunlight.

2.11 CAP SCREW – A threaded fastener which is utilized with a threaded nut or internal threads in a material, to provide a clamp load on the mechanical joint being fastened. Cap screws are most typically hex head, but include socket head, button head, and other types. See ASTM F593, ASTM F837, and for illustrations of these and other types of cap screws, see ANSI/ASME B18.2.1 and ANSI/ASME B18.3.

2.12 CLAMP LOAD – The force exerted on a fastened joint by a fastener, such as a cap screw. To minimize fatigue failures, the clamp load of a fastener, such as a cap screw and hex nut, must exceed the force exerted on the fastener by the fastened joint.

2.13 CLAMPING DEVICE(S) – A mechanical means to secure a PV module to the rack mounting system which does not rely upon the mounting holes in the PV module's frame. These clamping devices are typically, but not limited to, top-down clamps. The clamping device may also function as a bonding device where specified. Top down end-clamps are assumed to be cantilever design, where the fastener securement is approximately at the mid-point between the PV module and the clamps' contact with the supporting structure. Also see Retention Device.

2.13A CRITICAL BONDING FASTENER – A fastener (e.g., lock bolt, bolt, screw, nut, and washer) relied upon as part of the electrical bonding path and a required part of the assembly tested during the bonding and grounding tests.

2.13B CRITICAL STRUCTURAL FASTENER – A fastener (e.g., lock bolt, bolt, screw, nut, and washer) relied upon as part of the structural load path and a required part of the assembly tested during mechanical loading tests.

2.14 CYCLIC LOADING – The non-static (changing) forces that act upon a body; for the purposes of this standard, the changing loads that act upon the fastened joint (i.e., changing wind loads that will force a PV module to act against the clamping device which is securing the PV module in place).

2.15 DIRECT ROOF MOUNTING – PV modules which are direct-mounted; placed upon the building's waterproof membrane/shingles or the like.

2.16 ELECTRIC SHOCK – A risk of electric shock is considered to exist at a part if the potential between the part and earth ground or any other accessible part is more than 30 Vdc and the leakage current exceeds the values specified in the following table:

Surface or part from which measurement is made	Maximum current (dc)
Accessible conductive frame, pan, or the like	10 µA

2.17 FACTORY INSTALLED – The connection of a device under controlled factory conditions at the manufacturer's location(s).

2.18 FASTENER (threaded fastener) – A mechanical device designed specifically to hold, join, couple, or assemble two or more components together. Examples of fastener types include cap screws, machine screws, and bolts.

2.19 FIELD INSTALLED – The connection of a device, which is made in the field by an installer.

2.20 GROUNDING LUG – A device used to provide a ground path between an object (e.g., PV module frame or racking system) and a grounding electrode conductor or equipment grounding conductor; the device provides an equipotential-bonded connection.

2.20A GUARDED PERIMETER – A perimeter that is protected with wire screen or other similar means including sheet metal.

2.21 INTERCONNECT – A conductor within a module that provides a mechanism for conducting electricity between cells.

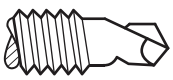
2.22 LIKELY TO BE ENERGIZED – Any conductive component that may come into contact with a live part under normal operating or single fault conditions. Conductive components of rack mounting systems that enclose electrical circuits or otherwise act as an electrical enclosure, conductive components that are not physically separated from potentially live insulated or non-insulated wires or conductors, conductive components not electrically isolated from other conductive components that are likely to be energized.

2.22A LOCKBOLT – A two-piece fastener consisting of a metal pin and collar that swages into the grooves of the pin using automated tooling, resulting in a known clamp load and permanent connection. A lockbolt cannot typically be removed without damaging the pin or collar.

2.23 MACHINE SCREW – A machine screw is a fastener defined by ASME B18.6.3 meeting UN or UNR requirements such as UNC, UNF, and UNS thread types defined by ASME B1.1 as well as the M series metric screws defined by ASME B1.13M. There are thread cutting and self-drilling tapping machine screws. Examples of thread cutting screws include Types, D, F, G, T, 1, 23 as defined by ASME B18.6.3. Examples of self-drilling tapping machine screws include CSD screws as defined by SAE J78. These screws have UN style threads with a drill point for creating the pilot hole for the screw.

Thread-Cutting Machine Screw

Self-Drilling Tapping Machine Screw



2.24 MAXIMUM POWER (P_{max}) – The point on the current-versus-voltage curve of a module, at standard test conditions (STC), where the product of current and voltage is maximum.

2.25 MAXIMUM SYSTEM VOLTAGE – The sum of the maximum open-circuit voltages of the maximum number of modules or panels to be connected in series in a system at 1000W/m^2, AM 1.5 spectrum and corrected for the lowest expected ambient temperature.

2.26 MODULE (FLAT-PLATE) – The smallest environmentally protected, essentially planar assembly of solar cells and ancillary parts, such as interconnects and terminals, intended to generate dc power under non-concentrated sunlight. The structural (load-carrying) member of a module can either be the top layer (superstrate), or the back layer (substrate), in which:

a) The superstrate is the transparent material forming the top (light-facing) outer surface of the module. If load-carrying, this constitutes a structural superstrate.

b) The substrate is the material forming the back outer surface of a module. If load-carrying, this constitutes a structural substrate.

2.26.1 MODULE LEVEL POWER ELECTRONIC (MLPE) DEVICE – Device that performs module level electrical control and/or monitoring, which could be connected to PV module frame or racking system.

2.27 MODULE MOUNTING MEANS – A device or combination of devices used to mechanically secure a PV module to a rack. Part of the module mounting means may be integrated into the module frame and/or rack.

2.28 NON-SEPARATELY DERIVED – Photovoltaic systems that have direct electrical connection to another source, such as PV systems that connect to the grid via a grid interactive inverter.

2.29 PANEL (FLAT-PLATE) – A collection of modules mechanically fastened together, wired, and designed to provide a field-installable unit.

2.30 PANEL MOUNTING CLIP (framed modules) – A mechanical means to secure a PV module to the rack mounting system which does not necessarily rely upon the mounting holes in the PV modules frame (but may use such for alignment) and may not be secured with a threaded fastener and may include a bonding function.

2.31 PANEL MOUNTING CLIP (un-framed modules) – A mechanical means to secure a PV module to the rack mounting system and may not be secured with a threaded fastener, and may include a bonding function.

2.32 PROOF LOAD – A tensile load that the fastener must support without evidence of permanent deformation.

2.33 RACK – A structure used to support the PV modules.

2.34 RACK MOUNTING MEANS – Device or combination of devices used to mechanically secure a rack to a building structure or ground.

2.35 RACK MOUNTING SYSTEM – A complete system used to mechanically secure and support one or more PV modules and that is affixed to a structure or ground and includes module mounting means, rack mounting means, and racks.

2.36 RACK MOUNTING SYSTEM ACCESSORIES – Devices that do not act as nor supplement support for the PV module or mechanical securement of the PV module to the rack or mechanical securement of the rack to a structure or ground.

2.37 RATED OPERATING VOLTAGE – The voltage, ±10 percent, at which maximum power is available from the module or panel under standard test conditions (STC).

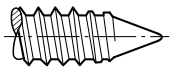
2.38 RETENTION DEVICE – A device which retains a PV module, such as, but not limited to a U-channel rail and where applicable the requirements pertaining to clamping devices may also apply to the retention devices.

2.38A ROOF ATTACHMENT – The mechanical connection (e.g., fasteners, U-bolts, adhesives, etc.) between the mounting system or mounting device and the roof system.

2.39 SHEAR LOADING – A load applied parallel to the cross-section of the material.

2.39.1 SHEET METAL SCREW – A thread forming or thread cutting screw with spaced threads which allow for material displacement during threading. The threads per inch for sheet metal screws are less than those for machine screws (UNC, UNF, or M as defined by ASME B1.1 and ASME B1.13M). Examples of sheet metal screws include Type A, AB, ABR, B, BP, BF, BT and 25 as defined by ASME B18.6.3.

Sheet Metal Screw with Spaced Threads



2.39.2 SINGLE FAULT CONDITION – Condition in which one means for protection against a hazard is defective or one fault is present which could cause a hazard. If a single fault condition results in other subsequent failures, the set of failures is considered as one single fault condition.

2.40 STAINLESS STEEL (300 SERIES) – Stainless steel in the AISI 300 series.

2.41 STANDARD TEST CONDITIONS (STC) – Test conditions consisting of:

a) 100 mW/cm^2 irradiance,

b) AM 1.5 spectrum, and

c) 25°C cell temperature.

2.42 TERMINAL CONNECTOR – Establishes a connection between one or more conductors to a terminal plate or stud, or to any similar device, by means of mechanical pressure.

2.43 TORQUE – The tendency of a force to rotate an object; the cross product of the lever arm and force. For the purposes of this standard, refers to the rotational force applied to a threaded fastener to obtain a desired clamp load.

2.44 ULTIMATE TENSILE STRENGTH – The maximum engineering stress a material can withstand while being stretched or pulled before failing or breaking. Ultimate tensile strength is sometimes referred to simply as tensile strength.

2.45 UNCONDITIONED MODULES OR SAMPLES – Modules or samples that have not been previously subjected to tests or environmental exposures.

2.46 *Deleted*

3 Units of measurement

3.1 Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate information.

4 Components

4.1 Except as indicated in this clause, a component of a product covered by this standard shall comply with the requirements for that component. See the Standards for Components appendix for a list of standards covering components generally used in the products covered by this standard.

4.2 A component is not required to comply with a specific requirement that:

a) Involves a feature or characteristic not required in the application of the component in the product covered by this standard, or

b) Is superseded by a requirement in this standard.

4.3 A component shall be used in accordance with its rating established for the intended conditions of use.

4.4 Specific components are incomplete in construction features or restricted in performance capabilities. Such components are intended for use only under limited conditions, such as certain temperatures not exceeding specified limits, and shall be used only under those specific conditions.

5 Undated References

5.1 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

CONSTRUCTION

6 General

6.1 Rack mounting system and all components shall be designed with suitable materials and at sufficient material thickness for structural integrity for the loads the rack system will be subject. Materials shall also have suitable corrosion resistance (see Section 10). Any dissimilar metals that significantly contribute to galvanic corrosion shall not be utilized. The electrochemical potentials table of Figure 6.1 shows various common metal combinations. Combinations below the table cutoff line, 0.6 V or less, are considered to be acceptable. Inherently, corrosion resistant metals that are not dissimilar, for example an austenitic stainless steel fastener used on an austenitic stainless steel clamp, are not subject this requirement.

Exception No. 1: For the combination of austenitic stainless steel (i.e. 300-series stainless steel) and zinc galvanized material; if the immediate adjacent area of materials zinc galvanized to austenitic stainless steel is greater than 2:1, the galvanic potential may be considered as 0.6 V.

Exception No. 2: 5000 and 6000 series aluminum alloys are considered Al/Mg alloy (although some in these series of alloys may contain additional alloying elements). For example, an austenitic stainless steel fastener used with 5000 series aluminum rail would be 0.55 V in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1

Electrochemical potentials

Magnesium, magnesium alloys	Zinc, zinc alloys	80 tin/20 Zn on steel, Zn on iron or steel	Aluminium	Cd on steel	Al/Mg alloy	Mild steel	Duralumin	Lead	Cr on steel, soft solder	Cr on Ni on steel, tin on steel, 12% Cr stainless steel	High Cr stainless steel	Copper, copper alloys	Silver solder, austenitic stainless steel	Ni on steel	Silver	Rh on Ag on Cu, silver/gold alloy	Carbon	Gold, platinum	
0	0.05	0.55	0.7	0.8	0.85	0.9	1.0	1.05	1.1	1.15	1.25	1.35	1.4	1.45	1.6	1.65	1.7	1.75	Magnesium, magnesium alloys
	0	0.05	0.2	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.5	0.55	0.6	0.65	0.75	0.85	0.9	0.95	1.1	1.15	1.2	1.25	Zinc, zinc alloys
		0	0.15	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.45	0.5	0.55	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.85	0.9	1.05	1.1	1.15	1.2	80 tin/20 Zn on steel, Zn on iron or steel
			0	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.45	0.55	0.65	0.7	0.75	0.9	0.95	1.0	1.05	Aluminium
				0	0.05	0.1	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.6	0.65	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	Cd on steel
					0	0.05	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.55	0.6	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.9	Al/Mg alloy
						0	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.35	0.45	0.5	0.55	0.7	0.75	0.8	0.85	Mild steel
							0	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.25	0.35	0.4	0.45	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.75	Duralumin
								0	0.05	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.55	0.6	0.66	0.7	Lead
									0	0.05	0.15	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.5	0.55	0.6	0.65	Cr on steel, soft solder
										0	0.1	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.45	0.5	0.55	0.6	Cr on Ni on steel, tin on steel, 12% Cr stainless steel
											0	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.35	0.4	0.45	0.5	High Cr stainless steel
												0	0.05	0.1	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.4	Copper, copper alloys
													0	0.05	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	Silver solder, austenitic stainless steel
														0	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	Ni on steel
															0	0.05	0.1	0.15	Silver
																0	0.05	0.1	Rh on Ag on Cu, silver/gold alloy
																	0	0.05	Carbon
																		0	Gold, platinum

Ag = Silver
Al = Aluminium
Cr = Chromium
Cd = Cadmium
Cu = Copper
Mg = Magnesium
Ni = Nickel
Rh = Rhodium
Zn = Zinc

NOTE – Corrosion due to electrochemical action between dissimilar metals which are in contact is minimized if the combined electrochemical potential is below about 0.6V. In the following table the combined electrochemical potentials are listed for a number of pairs of metals in common use; combinations above the dividing line should be avoided.

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