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Building Permit Exemption For Ballasted Ground Surface Solar Panel Racking Systems

The IntegraRack BallastRack and MultiBallast Modular Solar Panel Racking Systems, when ballasted on a ground or patio surface in accordance with our published datasheets, are considered temporary/movable retail finished, laboratory tested racking fixtures. Therefore, according to the International Code Council ("ICC"), and as referenced in Chapter 1, Section [A] 105.2, Subsection 13 of the 2018/2021/2024 International Building Code ("IBC"), temporary/movable fixtures are exempt from building permits, so long as the fixture is not over 5 feet 9 inches (1753mm) in height (see full subsection of this building code listed below). When utilizing our EarthBallast system, water storage bladders, CMU blocks, or similar approved ballasting, a building permit is not required according to the referenced IBC section, since IntegraRack's ground surface racking systems can be removed or relocated by simply removing the ballast material used to properly weigh down the racking systems for extreme wind loads. IntegraRack's other available mounting systems, such as the EarthScrew and BallastSlab mounting systems may also be exempt from building permits, but if considered permanently mounted or mounted to a concrete foundation or footing, in-state engineering may be required. As per IBC, "all products shall be tested by an approved agency" to be approved for National Sales within the United States.

2018/2021/2024 International Building Code (IBC)

Chapter 1, Section [A] 105.2 - Work exempt from permit

Exemptions from permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction. Permits shall not be required for the following:

Building:

13.Nonfixed and movable fixtures, cases, racks, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches (1753mm) in height.

Furthermore, in-state civil engineers are generally not trained or qualified to analyze the laboratory test data or aeronautical wind tunnel test data for the IntegraRack BallastRack and MultiBallast systems, as they are nationally tested and approved retail packaged modular products with stamped engineering test data from Phoenix National Laboratories, an internationally accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards by Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, or PJLA. Our extensive laboratory testing is the exact same level of testing that most all major national window and garage door manufacturers utilized for their products as well. These types of products, and our own BallastRack and MultiBallast products, do not require in-state civil engineering review.

The IBC® guidelines, as published by the ICC®, are widely adopted by city and county building officials across the United States. For installations that may be subject to review, it is often required to provide a report from a qualified civil engineer, or from a 50-state accredited testing laboratory, which can be found at <https://integrarack.com/engineering-%26-datasheets>. This report demonstrates that the IntegraRack system is designed to withstand the necessary wind and snow loads, and other applicable forces, ensuring compliance with the relevant sections of the 2018/2021/2024 IBC®, such as Chapter 16 Structural Design and ASCE 7. It is incumbent upon the installer to verify the specific solar/electrical permits that may be required with your local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and to provide any necessary documentation, as required by local building officials.

It is important to note that this document is intended for general information purposes only and does constitute legal or professional advice. Always consult with your local Authority Having Jurisdiction. A solar permit or electrical connection permit will still be required in most jurisdictions within the United States.