

**FIELD INSTALLATION
AND OPERATION MANUAL
FOR DC SMART MODULES**

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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

This manual provides IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTION relating to the installation, maintenance and handling of CS-series DC smart modules. System users and professional installers should read this manual carefully and strictly follow the instructions herein. Failure to follow these instructions may result in death, injury or property damage. The installation requires specialized skills and should only be performed by licensed professionals.

The word "module" or "PV module" used in this manual refers to one or more CS-series DC smart modules. Please retain this manual for future reference. We recommend checking www.canadiansolar.com regularly for the most updated version.

1.1 INSTALLATION MANUAL DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this manual is subject to change by Canadian Solar Inc. without prior notice. Canadian Solar Inc. gives no warranty of any kind whatsoever, either explicitly or implicitly, with respect to the information contained herein.

1.2 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Canadian Solar Inc. shall not be held responsible for damages of any kind, including – without limitation bodily harm, injury or damage to property, in connection with handling PV modules, system installation, or compliance or non-compliance with the instructions set forth in this manual.

1.3 PRODUCT INTRODUCTION

DC Smart modules combine the DC optimizer by Solar Edge, in order to maximize power harvesting by performing Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) at the module level. Power optimizers can operate without additional hardware interface and work directly with any non-SolarEdge inverter as well as with the

broad range of SolarEdge inverters.

Each power optimizer transmits its module's performance data over the DC power line. When using a SolarEdge inverter, these signals are received by the inverter and can be used for maintenance and remote monitoring. To monitor the modules when using a non-SolarEdge inverter, add a SolarEdge Safety and monitoring interface device (purchased separately). Monitoring the optimizers is not mandatory for generating power.



2.0 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



Warning: Before attempting to install, wire, operate and/or service the module and other electrical equipment, all instructions should be read and understood.

PV module interconnectors pass direct current (DC) when exposed to sunlight or other light sources. Contact with electrically active parts of the module, such as terminals, can result in injury or death, irrespective of whether or not the module and the other electrical equipment have been connected.



Avertissement: Toutes les instructions doivent être lues et comprises avant de procéder à l'installation, le câblage, l'exploitation et/ou l'entretien des panneaux.

Les interconnexions des panneaux conduisent du courant continu (CC) lorsque le panneau est exposé à la lumière du soleil ou à d'autres sources lumineuses. Tout contact avec des éléments sous tension du panneau tels que ses bornes de sortie peut entraîner des blessures ou la mort, que le panneau soit connecté ou non.

2.1 FCC COMPLIANCE

The optimizer has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment OFF and ON, you are encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and the receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance may void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

2.2 GENERAL SAFETY

- All Modules must be installed by licensed electricians in accordance to the applicable electrical codes such as, the latest National Electrical Code (USA), Canadian Electric Code (Canada) or other national or international electrical codes.
- Protective clothing (non-slip gloves, clothes, etc.) must be worn during installation to prevent direct contact with 30 V_{DC} or greater, and to protect your hands against sharp edges.
- Use electrically insulated tools to reduce the risk of electric shock.

- Prior to installation, remove all metallic jewelry to prevent accidental exposure to live circuits.
- If the disconnects and OCPD's cannot be opened or the inverter cannot be powered down, cover the fronts of modules in the PV array with an opaque material to stop the production of electricity when installing or working on a module or wiring.
- When installing or handling modules in light rain, morning dew or strong wind, take appropriate safety measures to avoid damage to the modules or injuries to people. Do not use or install broken modules.
- Contact with module surfaces or frames may cause electric shock if the front glass is broken, or the backsheet is torn.
- Keep the junction box cover closed at all times.
- The PV module does not contain any serviceable parts. **Do not** attempt to repair any part of the module.
- **Do not** disassemble a module or remove any module part.
- **Do not** artificially concentrate sunlight on a module.
- **Do not** connect or disconnect modules when current from the modules or an external source is present.
- **Do not** allow children or unauthorized persons near the installation site or module storage area. Care should be exercised during operation as the surface of the enclosure can be hot to the touch.

2.3 IMPORTANT SAFETY FEATURE

- When modifying an existing installation, turn OFF the inverter ON/OFF switch, the AC/DC Safety Switch and the AC switch of the main circuit board.
- Input and output connectors are not watertight until mated. Open connectors should be mated to each other or plugged with appropriate watertight caps.

- Refer to OPJ-300LV Optimizer Installation Manual from SolarEdge for more information and always follow latest safety procedures when installing. Link for Optimizer Installation Manual with SolarEdge inverter or non-SolarEdge inverter: <http://www.solaredge.com>
- Failure to follow corresponding regulatory instructions will void Canadian Solar Inc. module warranty.

3.0 ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The detailed electrical characteristics of the DC Smart modules can be found in Annex A “Electrical Ratings for DC Smart Modules”. The module DC electrical ratings are measured under Standard Test Conditions (STC) of 1kW/m² irradiance with an AM1.5 spectrum, and cell temperature of 25°C (77°F).

The main electrical characteristics also appear on each module label.

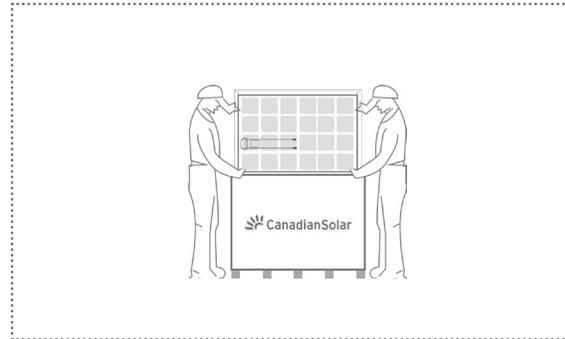
Under certain conditions, a module may produce more current or voltage than its STC rated power. As a result, a module’s open-circuit voltage and short-circuit current under STC should be multiplied by 1.25 when determining component voltage ratings, conductor ampacities, overcurrent device ratings, and the size of controls connected to the PV output. An additional 1.25 multiplier for the short-circuit current (giving a total multiplier of 1.56), may be applicable when sizing conductors and fuses, as described in section 690-8 of U.S. NEC.

4.0 UNPACKING AND STORAGE

PRECAUTIONS

- If modules are stored in an uncontrolled environment for less than 3 months, extra precautions should be taken to prevent connectors from being exposed to moisture or sunlight.
- Unpack module pallets carefully, following the steps shown on the pallet. Unpack, transport and store the modules with care.

- Modules must always be unpacked by two people. Always use both hands when handling modules.



- **Do not** lift modules by their wires or junction box, lift them by the frame.
- Stacks of modules should contain no more than 12 modules, and the frames should be aligned.
- **Do not** place excessive loads on the module or twist the module frame.
- **Do not** bow modules under their own weight.
- **Do not** stand, step, walk and/or jump on modules.



- **Do not** carry the modules on your head.



- **Do not** leave modules unsupported or unsecured.
- **Do not** use sharp instruments on the modules.

Particular care should be taken to avoid module backsheet being damaged by sharp objects, as scratches may directly affect product safety.

- **Do not** change the wiring of bypass diodes.
- Keep all electrical contacts clean and dry.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

- Each module is fitted with two identical barcodes (one on the laminate under the front glass, the second on the rear module cover) that act as a unique identifier. Each module has a unique serial number containing 14 digits.
- A nameplate is also affixed to the rear of each module. This nameplate specifies the model type, as well as the main electrical and safety characteristics of the module.

5.0 MODULE INSTALLATION



PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AND GENERAL SAFETY

- Prior to installing modules please obtain information about any requirements and necessary approvals for the site, installation and inspection from the relevant authorities.
- All modules in the same installation must be equipped with power optimizers.
- Check applicable building codes to ensure that the construction or structure (roof, facade, support, etc.) can bear the module system load.

SYSTEM FIRE RATING

- The fire rating of this module is valid only when mounted in the manner specified in the mechanical mounting instructions.

- Canadian Solar Inc. modules have been certified by CSA as Type 1 for fire performance.
- When installing the modules on rooftop, please ensure the assembly is mounted over a fire resistant roof covering rated for the application.
- A photovoltaic system composed of UL1703 certified modules mounted on a UL2703 certified mounting system should be evaluated in combination with roof coverings in accordance with UL1703 standard, with respect to meeting the same fire classification as the roof assembly.
- Mounting systems with a System Fire Class Rating (Class A, B or C), tested in conjunction with fire rated "Type 1" modules, are considered acceptable for use with Canadian Solar Inc. modules, provides the mounting system does not violate any other requirements of this manual.
- Any mounting system limitations on inclination or accessories required to maintain a specific System Fire Class Rating should be clearly specified in the installation instructions and UL2703 certification of the mounting system supplier.

Notice

DO NOT STAND OR STEP on the modules under any circumstances.

Localized heavy loads may cause severe micro-cracks at cell level, which in turn may compromise module reliability. Failure to comply with the above caution will void Canadian Solar Inc.'s warranty.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- The module is intended for use in general open-air climates, as defined in IEC 60721-2-1: Classification of environmental conditions Part 2-1: Environmental conditions appearing in nature. Temperature and humidity.
- Please consult the Canadian Solar Inc. technical support department for more information on the use of modules in special climates.
- **Do not** install modules near naked flames or flammable materials.

- **Do not** immerse modules in water or constantly expose modules to water (either fresh or salt) (i.e. from fountains, sea spray).
- Exposing modules to salt (i.e. marine environments) or sulfur (i.e. sulfur sources, volcanoes) incurs the risk of module corrosion.
- Failure to comply with these instructions will void Canadian Solar Inc. warranty.

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Ensure that the module meets the general technical system requirements.
- Ensure that other systems components do not damage modules mechanically or electrically.
- Modules can be wired in series to increase voltage or in parallel to increase current. To connect modules in series, connect the cables from the positive terminal of one module to the negative terminal of the next module. To connect in parallel, connect the cables from the positive terminal of one module to the positive terminal on the next module.
- Only connect the quantity of modules that corresponds to the voltage specifications of the inverters used in the system. Modules must NOT be connected together to create a voltage higher than the maximum permitted system voltage, even under the worst local temperature conditions.
- To minimize risk in the event of an indirect lightning strike, avoid forming loops when designing the system.
- The recommended maximum series fuse rating is stated in a table in the Annex A.
- Modules should be safely fixed to bear all expected loads, including wind and snow loads. A minimum clearance of 6.5 mm (1/4 of an inch) or more between modules is required to allow for thermal expansion of the frames.
- The small drainage holes on the underside of the module must not be blocked.

- The module can be placed in any orientation (with junction box up or down).

OPTIMUM ORIENTATION AND TILT

- To maximize your annual yield, find out the optimum orientation and tilt for PV modules in your region. The highest yields are achieved when sunlight shines perpendicularly onto the PV modules.

AVOID SHADING

- Even minor partial shading (e.g. from dirt deposits) reduces yields. A module can be considered to be unshaded if its entire surface is free from shading all year round. Sunlight should be able to reach the module even on the shortest day of the year.

RELIABLE VENTILATION

- Sufficient clearance (at least 10 cm / 4 in.) between the module frame and the mounting surface is required to allow cooling air to circulate around the back of the module. This also enables for condensation or moisture to dissipate.
- Any other specific clearance required for maintaining a system fire rating should prevail. Detailed clearance requirements pertaining to system fire ratings must be provided by your racking supplier.

5.1 MODULE WIRING

CORRECT WIRING SCHEME

- When connected to a non-SolarEdge inverter, ensure that the wiring is correct before starting up the system. Please refer to Annex B "ELECTRICAL RATING FOR DC SMART MODULE CONNECTED TO A NON-SOLAREEDGE INVERTER". If the measured open circuit voltage (Voc) and short-circuit current (Isc) differ from the specifications, this indicates that there is a wiring fault.

- You can create parallel strings of unequal length, that is, the number of power optimizers in each string does not have to be the same.
- Use the minimum and maximum string lengths, depending on the inverter type. The string lengths are specified in Annex A of this manual. Refer to the SolarEdge Site Designer for string length verification.
- Completely shaded modules cause their power optimizers to temporarily shut down. This will not affect the performance of the other power optimizers in the string as long as the minimum number of power optimizers connected to unshaded modules meet the minimum required string voltage. If under typical conditions fewer than the minimum number of optimizers is connected to unshaded modules, add more optimizers to the string.

CORRECT CONNECTION OF PLUG CONNECTORS

- Make sure that connections are safe and tight. Plug connectors should not be subjected to stress from the exterior. Connectors should only be used to connect the circuit. They should never be used to turn the circuit on and off.

USE OF SUITABLE MATERIALS

- Only use dedicated solar cable and suitable plugs (wiring should be sheathed in a sunlight-resistant conduit or, if exposed, should itself be sunlight-resistant) that meet local fire, building and electrical regulations. Please ensure that all wiring is in perfect electrical and mechanical condition.
- Installers may only use single conductor cable listed and labeled as USE-2 or PV Wire that is 90°C wet rated with proper insulation that is able to withstand the maximum possible system open-circuit voltage. Only copper conductor material should be used. Select a suitable conductor gauge to minimize voltage drop and ensure that the conductor ampacity complies with local regulations (i.e. NEC 690.8(D)).

CABLE PROTECTION

- Secure the cables to the mounting system using UV-resistant cable ties. Protect exposed cables from damage by taking appropriate precautions (e.g. placing them inside a plastic conduit).
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight.
- A minimum bending radius of 60 mm (2-1/2 in.) is required when securing the junction box cables to the racking system.

5.2 EQUIPMENT GROUNDING

- A module with exposed conductive parts is only considered to comply with UL1703 when it is electrically grounded in accordance with both the instructions presented below and the requirements of the National Electrical Code.
- Modules must be grounded, and module installation must comply with all local electrical codes and regulations.
- Grounding connections should be installed by a qualified electrician.
- Any grounding means used with Canadian Solar Inc. modules should be NRTL certified to UL467 and UL2703 standards. Please consult your sales representative for formal approval process.
- Connect module frames together using suitable grounding conductor. Holes provided for this purpose are identified with a grounding symbol.
- Use 6-12 AWG (4-14 mm²) copper wire only. All bolts, nuts, flat washers, lock washers and other relevant hardware should be made of stainless steel, unless otherwise specified.
- All conductive connection junctions must be firmly fixed. Metal containing iron in the conductive connection should be made with stainless steel or be treated against corrosion by anodizing, spray-painting, or galvanization to prevent rusting and corrosion.

- Canadian Solar Inc. does not provide grounding hardware.
- One grounding method approved by North-American certification bodies is recommended for Canadian Solar modules, as described below. For alternative grounding methods, please refer to Annex B (**Alternative Grounding Methods**) on our website (www.canadiansolar.com). It is not possible to use standard grounding methods for certain module ranges. Please refer to Annex B for more details.

GROUNDING METHOD: BOLT + TOOTHED NUT + CUP WASHER

When diameter of the grounding holes is 5 mm (CSA certified).

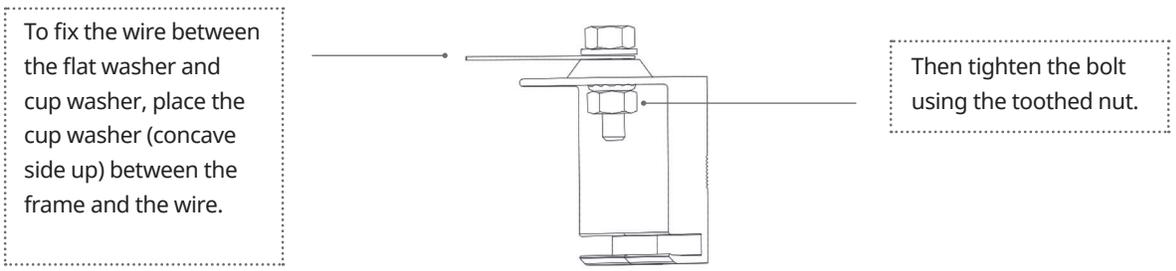
- A grounding kit containing an M5 SS cap bolt, an M5 SS flat washer, an M5 SS cup washer, and an M5 SS nut (with teeth) is used to attach copper grounding wire to a pre-drilled grounding hole on the frame (see image below).
- Place the wire between the flat washer and the cup washer. Ensure that the cup washer is positioned between the frame and the wire with the concave side up to prevent galvanic corrosion. Tighten the bolt securely using the SS toothed nut. A wrench may be used to do this. The tightening torque is 1 Nm.

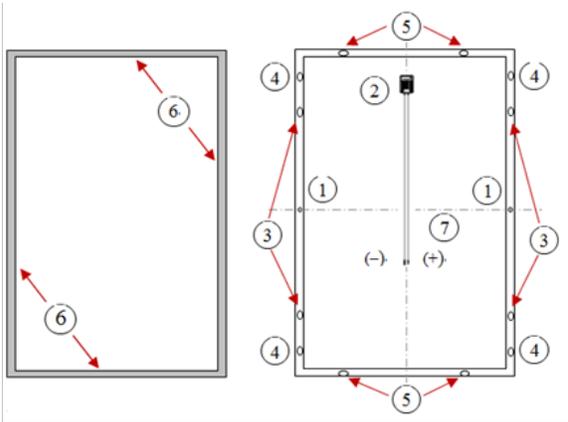
6.0 MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS

STANDARD MODULES

For a clear understanding of our modules, please refer to the illustration of a standard module.

Reference	Designation
1	Grounding holes
2	Optimizer junction box
3	Standard mounting holes (long side)
4	Additional mounting holes (high wind or snow loads)
5	Standard mounting holes (short side)
6	Module frame
7	Cables and connectors





- Any module without a frame (laminate) shall not be considered to comply with the requirements of UL1703 unless the module is mounted with hardware that has been tested and evaluated with the module under this standard or by a field Inspection certifying that the installed module complies with the requirements of UL1703.
- Canadian Solar Inc. modules can be installed in either landscape or portrait orientations. Refer to the detailed instructions for further guidance. Please note that in areas with heavy snowfall (> 2400 Pa) further countermeasures such the use of additional support bars should be considered to avoid snow loads damaging the lowest row of modules.
- In cases where an additional support bar is recommended to improve both mechanical stability and long-term module performance, we recommend selecting sufficiently resistant material. Canadian Solar Inc. recommends bars with a minimum thickness of 50 mm (2 in.). The support bar centerline should be positioned within 100 mm (4 in.) of the side frame centerline (slight shifts may be necessary to access module grounding holes).
- The mounting design must be certified by a registered professional engineer. The mounting design and procedures must comply with local codes and requirements from all relevant authorities.
- The module is only considered to comply with UL1703 when mounted as specified in the instructions below.
- All installation methods listed in CSI installation manual (including in Annex) have been qualified by major North-American certification bodies (CSA).
- Canadian Solar Inc. does not provide mounting hardware.
- Canadian Solar Inc. modules can be mounted onto a support structure using one of several approved methods. One such method is described below. For details of other mounting methods and the methods recommended by Canadian Solar Inc. for special module ranges, please refer to the Annex A (Alternative Mounting Methods) on our website (www.canadiansolar.com). For information about other installation hardware, please contact your local representative. Failure to use a recognized installation method will void the Canadian Solar Inc. warranty.
- Use appropriate corrosion-proof fastening materials. All mounting hardware (bolts, spring washers, flat washers, nuts) should be made with stainless steel.
- Use a torque wrench for installation.
- **Do not** drill additional holes or modify the module frame. Doing so will void the warranty.

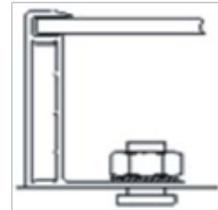
**6.1 MOUNTING METHOD:
BOLTING (CSA QUALIFIED)**

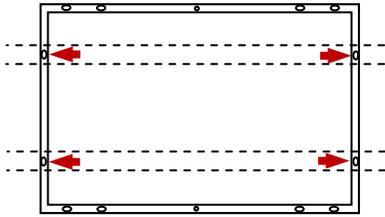
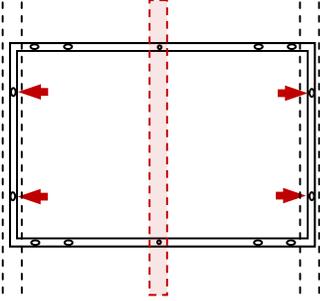
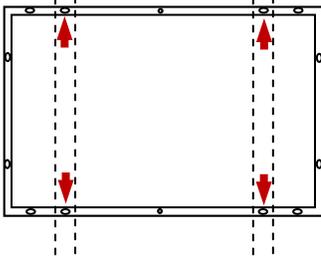
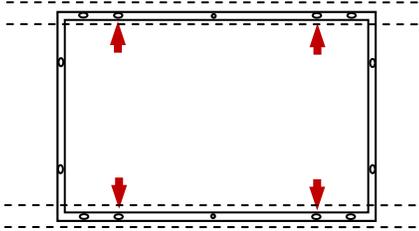
- Modules should be bolted to support structures through the mounting holes in the rear frame back flanges only.
- Each module must be securely fastened at a minimum of 4 points on two opposite sides, using the innermost mounting holes. M6 size bolt and nut are used for bolting method. Tightening torques should be within 4-6 Nm (35-53 lb-in) for M6x1 coarse thread bolts, depending on bolt class. In areas with heavy wind loads, additional mounting points should be used. The system designer

and the installer are responsible for calculating the load and ensuring that the support structure meets the requirements.

- Modules should be bolted at the following hole locations depending on the configuration and load:

**Table 6-1:
Approved bolting methods**



	Uplift load \leq 2400 Pa Downforce load \leq 2400 Pa	Uplift load \leq 2400 Pa 2400 Pa \leq Downforce load \leq 5400 Pa
Bolting on short frame side (except for 6X series)	Use 4 standard mounting holes (short side)  Mounting rails may run parallel or perpendicularly to the short frame side	Use 4 standard mounting holes (short side). An additional support bar should be placed below the module.  Mounting rails should run parallel to the short frame side
Bolting on long frame side	Use 4 standard mounting holes (long side)  Mounting rails may run perpendicularly or parallel to the long frame side	

7.0 MAINTENANCE

- Periodically inspect the system to check the integrity of all wiring and supports.
- To protect against electric shock or injury, electrical or mechanical inspections and maintenance should be performed by qualified personnel only.
- **Do not** make modifications to the PV components (diode, junction box, plug connectors).
- Please refer to Annex D: Module Cleaning Guideline of Installation Manual Annex of Standard Solar Module on the Canadian Solar website (www.canadiansolar.com) for more information on module cleaning guideline.

7.1 ANNEX A: ELECTRICAL RATINGS FOR DC SMART MODULES

Electrical Data CS6P Power Optimizer connected to a SolarEdge Inverter

	255P-SD	260P-SD	265P-SD
Nominal Max. Power (Pmax STC)	255 W	260 W	265 W
Nominal Max. Power (Pmax NOCT)	185 W	189 W	192 W
Open Circuit Voltage (Voc STC)	37.4 V	37.5 V	37.7 V
Output Voltage Range (Vout)	5-60 V	5-60 V	5-60 V
Max. Output Current (Imax)	15 A	15 A	15 A
Maxi. Series Fuse Rating	20 A	20 A	20 A
Module Efficiency	15.85 %	16.16 %	16.47 %
Output during standby (power optimizer disconnected from inverter or inverter off)		1 V	
Safety Output Voltage			

PV System Design

			255P-SD	260P-SD	265P-SD
Min. String Length	EU & APAC	1ph	8		
		3ph	16		
		3ph-MV	18		
	US	1ph	8		
		3ph (208 V)	10		
Max. String Length	EU & APAC	1ph	20	20	19
		3ph	44	43	42
		3ph-MV	50	49	48
	US	1ph	20	20	19
		3ph (208 V)	23	23	22
Max. Power per String (W)	EU & APAC	1ph	5250		
		3ph	11250		
		3ph-MV	12750		
	US	1ph	5250		
		3ph (208 V)	6000		

7.2 ANNEX B: ELECTRICAL RATINGS FOR DC SMART MODULES CONNECTED TO A NON-SOLAREEDGE INVERTER

Electrical Data CS6P Power Optimizer
connected to a non-SolarEdge Inverter

	255P-SD	260P-SD	265P-SD
Nominal Max. Power (Pmax STC)	255 W	260 W	265 W
Nominal Max. Power (Pmax NOCT)	185 W	189 W	192 W
Open Circuit Voltage (Voc STC)	37.4 V	37.5 V	37.7 V
Output Voltage Range (Vout)	5 V - Voc	5 V - Voc	5 V - Voc
Max. Output Current (Imax)	10 A	10 A	10 A
Max. Series Fuse Rating	20 A	20 A	20 A
Module Efficiency	15.85 %	16.16 %	16.47 %

7.3 AMENDED EDITIONS AND DATES

- The first edition Rev 1.0 was released in Dec, 2014
- The second edition Rev 1.1 was released in Aug, 2015
- The third edition Rev 1.2 was released in Sep, 2015
- The fourth edition Rev 1.3 was released in Oct, 2015
- The fifth edition Rev 1.4 was released in Nov, 2015

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