

The Clean Energy Regulator (the agency) administers the Renewable Energy Target which includes the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES). The SRES creates a financial incentive for individuals and small businesses to install eligible small-scale renewable systems, including solar systems.

The agency has partnered with the Australian solar industry and peak bodies to establish the Solar Panel Validation (SPV) Initiative. SPV provides a way to check and confirm that panels are approved by the Clean Energy Council, eligible for the Small-scale renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) incentive, meet Australian standards and are genuine brand panels (and therefore covered by warranty).

This initiative is a proactive step in addressing the use of unapproved (sub-standard and counterfeit) solar panels in the Australian market, which damage consumer confidence in rooftop solar and take sales from legitimate businesses.

## How it works

The SPV Initiative is made up of two parts — an app for installers to use on a mobile device and a database of information for solar panels. The database includes solar panel serial numbers provided directly from manufacturers or their Australian authorised representatives.

The initiative is a partnership, with every member playing an important role:

- > **Industry** representatives have invested their own funds to build installer apps that collect serial number information. The apps synchronise with validation databases to verify solar panel serial numbers.
- > Participating **manufacturers** or their authorised Australian suppliers provide timely and accurate data about their solar panels, including serial numbers, to the validation databases.
- > **Installers** use apps to scan solar panel serial numbers, which are then checked against a database to ensure they are verified.
- > **The agency** has invested in its systems to accept signed data packages from industry apps during the application process to streamline the creation of small-scale technology certificates (STCs).
- > **Registered agents** use signed data packages generated via industry apps to create STCs for validated panels.

SPV offers a number of benefits to consumers, industry and government:

- > consumers know they are getting genuine products and can receive evidence that their installed solar panels have been verified via SPV, meet Australian standards and come with a warranty
- > installers using an SPV app will receive confirmation they are installing the right panels within seconds
- > retailers have confidence in the products they purchase and sell
- > manufacturers can protect their brand reputation, better understand where their panels are located and gain efficiencies in managing warranty information and product recalls, and
- > it helps to protect Commonwealth entitlements, lowers the risk of fraud and streamlines data collection for industry.

## Why participate?

SPV simplifies record keeping and the collection and transfer of installation information for agents submitting STC applications. The SPV app automates some of your work to save you time and effort.

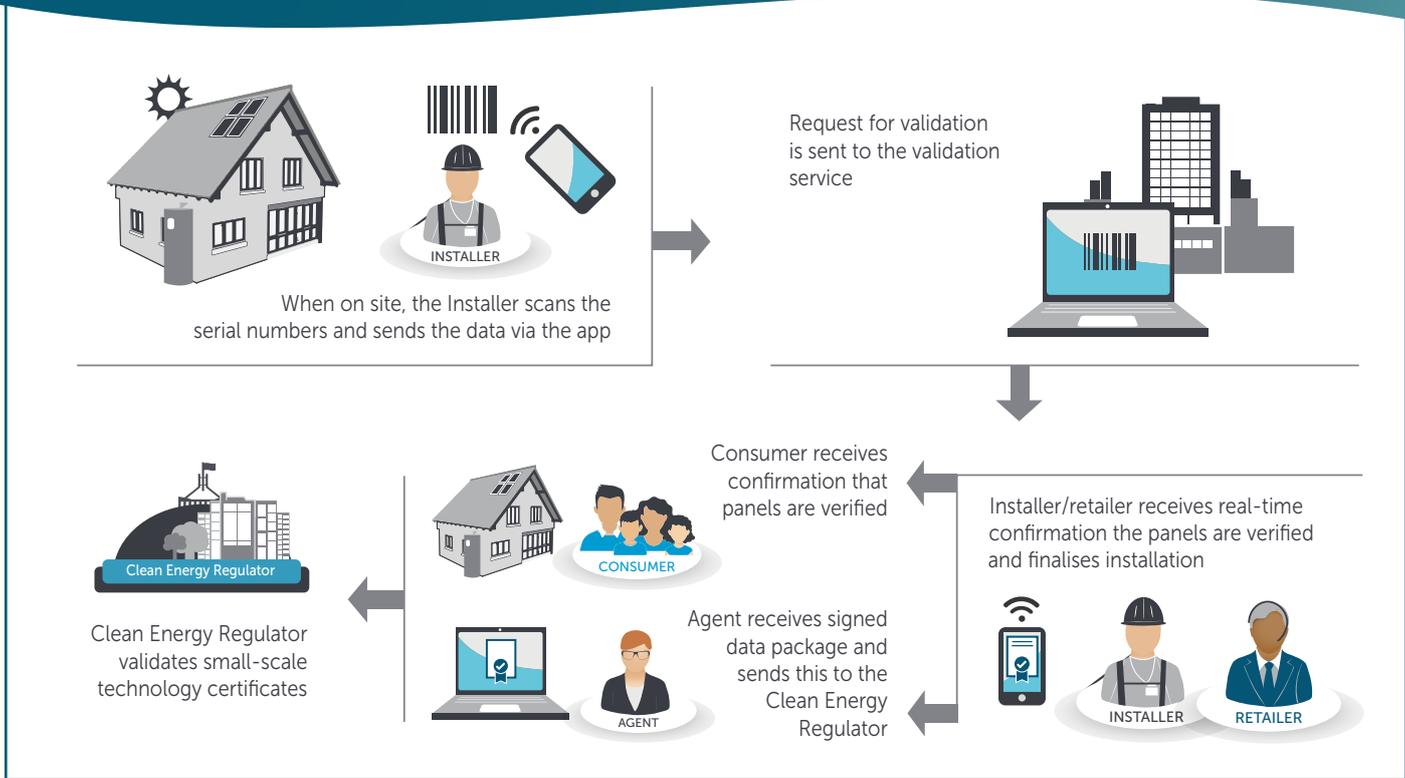
The SPV app quickly and easily captures most of the key information required at the point of install, so you can avoid attending the installation site multiple times to record details.

Solar businesses want installers to use an SPV app because they benefit from shorter STC application processing times when solar panels have been verified using SPV (subject to the application meeting all scheme requirements).

Participating in SPV will also reduce your risk of installing unapproved solar panels and help protect you from financial and reputational damage.

By participating in SPV, non-compliant practices will be easier to identify and address, which helps protect the solar industry.

We take compliance seriously. Where we detect the use of unapproved panels under the SRES we will pursue a range of compliance and enforcement actions, including suspension of registration and REC Registry accounts, enforceable undertakings and criminal or civil proceedings.



## How to participate

Use an SPV app to verify the solar panels you install on site. Check your smart phone app store to download an app from one of the current SPV industry partners.

Contact each SPV industry partner to determine the app that is right for you, or bring your own app to SPV by contacting the agency.

Contact details for all current app providers may be found on our website along with a list of all current participating manufacturers and retailers.

Each app provider will have slightly different approaches so talk to the app provider to determine:

- > what (if any) costs are associated with using the app, and
- > the nature of the agreement that you will have with the app provider.

## What can I do to increase uptake?

Encourage your industry colleagues to use SPV to:

- > easily capture most of the essential information at the point of install
- > simplify your record keeping, collection and transfer of installation information for STC applications
- > benefit from significant savings, reduced effort and streamlined processes that SPV app automation provides
- > make it easy for you to check solar panel authenticity where it is difficult to do so
- > protect the integrity of your solar industry

## More information

For more information about the Solar Panel Validation Initiative, visit [www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au) or contact us by email at [enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au) or phone 1300 553 542.