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# SRCC OG-100 Solar Thermal Collector Certification Program FAQ

## What are the benefits to manufacturers of certifying solar thermal collectors under SRCC's OG-100 program?

- **INCENTIVE PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE.** Certification to OG-100 is required by many programs throughout the U.S. that provide incentives like rebates and tax credits. Notable programs that call for OG-100 certification include the California CSI Thermal Program, Massachusetts Commonwealth Solar Program, Oregon Residential Energy Tax Credits, [EPA ENERGY STAR® Residential Water Heater Program](#), and many others. See the [DSIRE Website](#) for information on incentive programs in specific locations around the U.S.
- **CODE COMPLIANCE.** Several model building codes require installed systems to comply with SRCC Standard 100 (the standard that provides the technical basis of the OG-100 program). Therefore, by certifying your system to OG-100, you are demonstrating compliance with SRCC Standard 100 and meeting one of the key requirements of these codes. Examples include the IAPMO Uniform Solar Energy Code and the ICC International Residential Code (IRC). *Note: Many codes have other requirements above and beyond OG-100 compliance. OG-100 only provides assessment to the ICC 901/SRCC 100 standard. For evaluation to all of the requirements in various codes and standards see the SRCC Codes and Standards Listing Program.*
- **THIRD-PARTY PERFORMANCE MODELING.** OG-100 certification includes collector ratings based on laboratory test data. SRCC provides ratings for all OG-100 systems using the same conditions so that users can easily compare the performance of different models. In that way it's similar to the MPG ratings used for cars. Third-party certification and performance ratings provide users with confidence that the results are fair and accurate, from the experts at SRCC.
- **SAFETY AND DURABILITY.** OG-100 certification addresses more than just ratings. During the course of certification, SRCC's engineers review the design and construction of the collector to be sure that they comply with the minimum requirements set in the ICC 901/SRCC 100 Standard. This provides users with assurance that the collector meets the standard's comprehensive requirements for safety, durability and minimum performance.
- **WEB-BASED CERTIFICATES.** All collectors certified under the OG-100 program are provided with an OG-100 certificate and are listed on the SRCC website, [www.solar-rating.org](http://www.solar-rating.org). The certificates provide tables featuring rated performance under standardized climate conditions and applications. Detailed performance data is also provided to allow system designers to model the collectors as part of a system. Code officials and incentive programs recognize SRCC's website as the authoritative source of up-to-date information on OG-100 certified collectors. They use the certificates there to verify certification, and to confirm that systems are installed in compliance with the certification. This results in faster, streamlined inspections.



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## What are the benefits to incentive programs of requiring solar thermal collectors to be certified under SRCC's OG-100 program?

- **NATIONWIDE ACCEPTANCE.** SRCC OG-100 certifications are recognized and in some cases required by dozens of incentive programs and regulations nationwide. Certifying with SRCC ensures that your system can be sold and incentivized virtually anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. Check the [DSIRE website](#) for listings of [solar water heating](#) and [solar pool heating](#) programs.
- **COMPARABILITY.** OG-100 certification includes ratings that provide key information on the performance of the collector under a wide variety of conditions. By using common rating conditions, the performance of different collector types can be compared directly. This helps consumers make informed choices by comparing “apples to apples.”
- **TRUSTED.** SRCC has been offering solar thermal certifications for over 3 decades. SRCC's staff are solar thermal experts. We know your products and we know Standard 100 - because we created it.
- **COMPREHENSIVE AND OBJECTIVE.** SRCC's certificates provide the third-party technical information consumers and designers need to model and select the best collector for their application. SRCC models all OG-100 systems using the same rating conditions so users can easily get an unbiased comparison.
- **MINIMUM PERFORMANCE.** Many programs scale the value of their incentives to OG-100 ratings. This scales the dollar value of incentives to the benefit expected. Using a third-party source like SRCC ensures that ratings are fair and unbiased.
- **SAFETY AND DURABILITY.** OG-100 certification is more than just performance ratings. SRCC's engineers review collector designs and laboratory testing results to be sure they meet the ICC 901/SRCC 100 Standard, providing assurance that they meet comprehensive safety, durability and minimum performance requirements.
- **WEB-BASED CERTIFICATES.** OG-100 certified collectors are provided with a certificate of compliance, provided on the SRCC website, [www.solar-rating.org](http://www.solar-rating.org). The certificates feature certified performance ratings and a complete schematic of the approved system. Check them out on our [online listing directory](#).

## My company manufactures solar thermal collectors and we would like to have them SRCC OG-100 certified. Where do I begin?

1. First-time applicants should start by registering with SRCC. This is a simple, one-time process that establishes the necessary company contact and user information on the SRCC website. There is a \$500 registration fee. Go to *Register Now* at <https://secure.solar-rating.org/> SRCC participants seeking certification for additional products can skip this step.

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2. Next, you will need to have your product tested in accordance with SRCC's requirements by a [SRCC approved testing laboratory](#). SRCC does not provide product or laboratory testing services. Manufacturers seeking new testing services to support SRCC OG-100 certification must independently select from among the [SRCC Approved Testing Programs](#) and contract directly with the testing laboratory to conduct the required testing. Please note that lab fees and schedules are separate from those associated with SRCC certification.
3. After scheduling laboratory testing, apply for SRCC OG-100 Certification on the SRCC website. Login at <https://secure.solar-rating.org> and go to the *My Options* menu, choose *View/Create/Modify Package* and click on the *Create New Package* button. The automated system will take you through the application process, including an invoice and a credit card payment screen. If you choose to pay the certification fees by check or wire transfer, close the credit card window and we will let you know when we receive payment. The Basic collector is the tested collector. If you would like to apply for any Resizes, choose the *Add Request to This Package* button after completing the information for the Basic collector. There is a section where you will be asked to upload related documents such as drawings. Once completed, be sure to click *Finalize Package*.

**What is the difference between the SRCC OG-100 and OG-300 programs?**

SRCC provides several certification programs for solar thermal products, including OG-100 and OG-300. The OG-100 program provides for certification of solar thermal collectors, and requires compliance with the ICC 901/SRCC 100 Solar Thermal Collector Standard. OG-100 certification requires a range of laboratory tests to assess the safety, durability and thermal performance of each collector. The OG-300 certification program addresses solar thermal systems and requires compliance with the ICC 900/SRCC 300 Solar Thermal System Standard. For OG-300 certification, the use of an OG-100 certified collector is required. Using information on the other system components, including the tank, pump, heat exchanger, controller, piping and valves, the system is modeled to determine performance. SRCC staff also reviews the components, system design, and manuals to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements of the standard. In most cases, testing of the entire system is not required by the ICC 900/SRCC 300 Standard. However, testing of individual components may be necessary to provide the information needed for the computer model of the system.

OG-300 certification addresses the entire system, whereas OG-100 certification only covers one part of that system – the collector. OG-100 does provide collector rating information, which allows specific collectors to be compared. However, OG-100 does not provide all of the information needed to describe the performance of the system. OG-100 does not address the other system components that can have a very significant impact on performance, like tanks, pumps, heat exchangers and controls. For example, a collector with a high OG-100 rating paired with a low-quality or poorly matched controller could achieve a low OG-300 rating. OG-100 alone is simply not an adequate predictor of system performance.

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**Will code officials recognize and accept SRCC OG-100 certifications?**

Yes, most code officials accept SRCC OG-100 certification as proof of compliance with SRCC Standard 100. SRCC is accredited by the [American Association for Laboratory Accreditation \(A2LA\)](#) to ISO/IEC Standard 17065, *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*, for the certification of solar heating and cooling equipment. Code officials use SRCC OG-100 certification documents to inspect the installed systems to ensure that the collector meets all requirements in the standard. As a member of the [International Code Council](#) Family of Companies, SRCC is backed by the largest association of building officials in the country. Code officials know and trust the ICC name.

*Note: Many codes have other requirements above and beyond OG-100 compliance. OG-100 only provides assessment to the ICC 901/SRCC 100 standard. For evaluation to all of the requirements in various codes and standards see the SRCC Codes and Standards Listing Program.*

**Will incentive programs recognize and accept SRCC OG-100 certifications?**

Yes, dozens of incentive programs around the U.S. specify, accept, and recognize SRCC's OG-100 certifications. In fact, some incentive programs accept SRCC's certifications for solar thermal collectors *exclusively*. SRCC was created by a group of states, SEIA and the Federal Government in the 1980's to address the need for quality and performance certification for solar thermal collectors and systems. SRCC has been recognized as the preeminent organization for solar thermal certification and rating for decades. To see incentive programs for selected locations, visit the [Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency \(DSIRE\)](#) for listings of [solar water heating](#) and [solar pool heating](#) programs.

**How are OG-100 and Standard 100 related?**

SRCC's OG-100 certification program refers to the Operating Guidelines associated with the SRCC Solar Thermal Collector Certification Program. The Operating Guidelines (OG) refer to the requirements, policies and procedures associated with the certification program, and are specific to SRCC. The OG-100 document references the SRCC Standard 100 document (ICC 901/SRCC 100), which sets the technical requirements for the evaluation and rating of solar thermal collectors. SRCC Standard 100 is a generic standard for these collectors that is produced by SRCC but does not specifically require that certification to the standard be conducted by SRCC. The current version of Standard 100 is known formally as ICC 901/SRCC 100 *Solar Thermal Collectors*, and it was approved by ANSI as an American National Standard in 2015. It is currently set to be revised starting in 2019.

**Which standards does SRCC use to conduct OG-100 certifications?**

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OG-100 certification procedures are established in the OG-100 *Operating Guidelines for Certifying Solar Collectors* document, which is available on the SRCC website under [Guidelines and Policies](#). This document, in turn, references the ICC 901/SRCC 100 *Solar Thermal Collector Standard*, which is also available for viewing [online for free](#) or in [hardcopy form for purchase](#). This ANSI standard sets the technical requirements for these collectors and references many other specific standards. ICC 901/SRCC 100 in turn references the internationally-accepted ISO 9806 *Solar Energy – Solar Thermal Collectors – Test Methods* standard. This is the same testing standard utilized by other notable international certification programs, including the European Solar Keymark Program, with minor testing variations.

**Are OG-100 certifications mandatory in the U.S.?**

While obtaining an OG-100 certification from SRCC (or any other qualified certification body) is not mandated at the national level, it is required by incentive programs, building codes and other regulations in dozens of states. Therefore, in order to install or qualify for vital solar thermal incentives, an OG-100 certification is required in most locations in the U.S.

Just a few examples of incentives programs specifying OG-100 certification include:

- [California CSI Thermal Program](#)
- [Oregon Residential Energy Tax Credits](#)
- [Arizona Solar and Wind Equipment Certification](#)
- [Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard](#)
- [Massachusetts Commonwealth Solar Water Heater Program](#)
- [Minnesota Solar Equipment Certification Requirement](#)
- [New Hampshire Residential Solar Water Heating Rebate](#)
- [Hawaii Solar Water Heating Requirement for New Construction](#)
- [Florida FSEC Solar Certification](#)

There are too many other programs and regulations which prescribe OG-100 to list here. See the [Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency \(DSIRE\)](#), which is produced by NC State University for the U.S. DOE.

Several model codes now also require compliance with SRCC Standard 100. These include:

- 2015 & 2018 International Residential Code (IRC)\*
- 2015 Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code (USEHC)\*\*
- 2018 International Building Code (IBC)\*
- 2018 International Plumbing Code (IPC)\*
- 2015 & 2018 International Mechanical Code (IMC)\*
- 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC)\*

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For jurisdictions that have adopted these model codes as the basis for their state or local code, compliance with Standard 100 will likely be required. Check with your local jurisdiction for details.

The 2015 IRC, for example, and requires third-party certification to reference standards:

**P2609.4 Third-party certification.** Plumbing products and materials required by the code to be in compliance with a referenced standard shall be listed by a third-party certification agency as complying with the referenced standards. Products and materials shall be identified in accordance with Section P2609.1.

Simply put, OG-100 certification is the best way to ensure that your solar thermal collector will meet local regulations and incentive program requirements anywhere in the U.S.

### **What are the marking requirements?**

SRCC has a specific mark used to convey OG-100 certification (specific usage is established in the *ICC-SRCC™ Trademark, Certification Mark and Certificate Use Policy* found in the [Policy Section of the SRCC website](#)).

SRCC also issues a separate certification document that is available for viewing on the [SRCC website](#). Up-to-date OG-100 certificates can be found using [SRCC's searchable online directory](#).



### **How long does certification last (when do they need to be renewed)?**

SRCC OG-100 certifications are valid for a period of one year and are eligible for renewal annually. The test reports submitted for the certification of collectors are valid for a period of 10 years from the date of issuance of the report. After that time period elapses, the manufacturer must submit a new test report in order to continue certification of the collector.

OG-100 certification holders must also notify SRCC of any design changes to the collectors and comply with all inspection, SRCC staff will remind you of an upcoming renewal to help you ensure that there is no gap in your coverage.

### **Once our system(s) is certified, are there additional costs?**

Yes, there is an annual fee required in order to renew collector certifications. If changes are made to the certification, they may result in Editorial or Technical Modification changes. Inspection and self-assessment fees are also incurred during the period of certification.

### **How long will the certification process take?**

The process time will vary with each application. The timeframe for testing is generally 2-6 months. This is something manufacturers should discuss with the approved SRCC test labs that you are considering.

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The test results are evaluated in the order in which they are received. Certification is usually awarded in approximately 3-4 weeks (unless additional information is needed).

**How do I know which tests are required for my collector for OG-100 certification from SRCC?**

Testing requirements for each type of collector is established in the OG-100 *Operating Guidelines for Certifying Solar Collectors* document, which is available on the SRCC website under [Guidelines and Policies](#). We encourage you to talk with us prior to testing. SRCC staff would be happy to answer any questions and explain the testing requirements for your particular type of product.

**Once testing is completed, is the collector considered SRCC certified?**

No. The application material and test results must be reviewed by SRCC staff and the ratings will be calculated. Once all requirements for the OG-100 program are met, including receipt of the signed program agreement, program fees, and all requested product documentation, SRCC will award certification.

**I already have a test report from a testing laboratory. Should I send a copy of the test report to SRCC?**

Yes, SRCC staff can assess the test report to determine whether it can be used for OG-100 certifications. Testing conducted for other certification programs like Solar Keymark, may be applicable for OG-100 certification. In some cases the testing will meet most, but not all, SRCC requirements. In this case a gap report addressing the remaining testing requirements will be accepted. For a FREE review of your existing test report, please send the document to SRCC at [srcc@solar-rating.org](mailto:srcc@solar-rating.org). We will follow up shortly with our assessment of the data.

**Can I certify my collector under multiple brand names?**

Yes, once you have OG-100 certification, you may login to your account and apply for a Private Label.

**Can I authorize someone else to sell my certified collector under their company name?**

Yes, they must be registered with SRCC so you can login and authorize a Private Label to that company.

**Can I change any of the design or materials for my OG-100 certified collector?**

Yes, but SRCC must be notified in advance. SRCC will evaluate the change to the collector to determine continued compliance and whether retesting will be required before revising the certification. Editorial or technical modification fees may be assessed.

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**I see SRCC offers Code Listing services. What is the difference between that and SRCC OG-100 Certification?**

SRCC OG-100 certification program is for solar thermal collectors to the requirements contained within OG-100 Operating Guidelines, which references ICC 901/SRCC Standard 100. SRCC now also offers optional listings to several specific extra standards under OG-100 at the request of the participant.

Listings to codes and standards involves assessing a product or system's compliance with the relevant requirements of one or more specific model plumbing, mechanical, building codes and/or standards adopted by jurisdictions around the U.S. Unlike the SRCC certification programs, SRCC's listings do not result in a performance rating. Listings are optional, but can facilitate acceptance in many jurisdictions. Listings are valid for a period of 1 year and may be renewed annually. See the [Listing Program webpage](#) for more information.

**I have more questions regarding fees and the application/certification process. How do I get answers?**

Feel free to send your questions in an e-mail message to [srcc@solar-rating.org](mailto:srcc@solar-rating.org)