



Residential ESS

What does ESS stand for?

At SEAC's Jan. 26, 2023 general meeting, Storage Fire Detection working group vice chair Jeff Spies presented on code-compliance challenges and potential solutions for residential energy storage systems (ESS).

Can ESS be installed in a basement?

There has also been a proposal for UL 9540 that the instructions for residential ESSs indicate that they be installed only in enclosed utility closets, basements, storage or utility spaces with walls and ceilings finished with gypsum wallboard or be of noncombustible construction.

Does a duplex meet ESS requirements?

Section 150.0 (s) of the 2022 Energy Code lays out the ESS-ready requirements and specifies that these apply to all single-family residences, and duplexes are no exception. Whether a duplex houses one or two dwelling units, it must adhere to these requirements. Must Each Unit in a Duplex Meet the Energy Code Requirements Separately?

What is the maximum energy capacity of a residential electrochemical ESS?

The current edition of UL 9540 limits the maximum energy capacity of an individual electrochemical ESS for residential use to 20 kWh (72 MJ). Currently, there is no requirement in UL 9540 for these units to be marked "Residential Use," but such a marking has been proposed for UL 9540 for the next edition.

What are the requirements for ESS marking?

The basic requirement for ESS marking is to be "labeled in accordance with UL 9540." Note the phrase "for residential use" is deleted from the 2021 IRC, to align with the UL 9540-16 Standard. This phrase is found in the 9540-20 edition of the UL standard and may apply moving forward.

What are prohibited locations for an ESS?

Prohibited locations for an ESS would include habitable spaces and living spaces in dwelling units, except when large-scale testing demonstrates that the cells that make up the ESS did not go into thermal runaway or vent flammable gas during the cell level test.

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