When does MCS require a *structural engineer?*

A site checklist for solar PV surveyors: the roofs that need an engineer, and what to send us so we can turn a desktop report round fast.

Every pitched roof needs its structure checked by a suitably competent person before an MCS installation (5.9.4), and that check can be your own, using the Table 1 method (5.9.5). MIS 3002 says a **qualified structural engineer shall be consulted** when any of the following applies.

SEND IT TO AN ENGINEER IF ANY OF THESE APPLY

1	Roof pitch is **below 30°**	5.9.6 Note
2	Traditional cut roof (rafters and purlins) **with hips or valleys**	Table 1
3	**Asymmetric duo-pitch** roof in rafters and purlins	Table 1
4	Roof construction is **not a Table 1 type** (timber trussed rafters, or a gable-ended cut roof)	5.9.6 Note
5	Any **signs of structural distress** in the roof	5.9.6 Note
6	**Post-construction changes**: timbers removed, notching, or a switch to a heavier covering	5.9.6 Note
7	Features that **increase snow build-up**: dormers, valleys, parapets	5.9.6 Note
8	Anything **unusual** about the roof structure, or **any doubt** at all	5.9.6
9	**Flat roof** (under 10°) with a **ballasted** system: roof to carry the array plus ballast	5.9.13(h)

OUR RECOMMENDATION: AN ENGINEER ON EVERY ROOF

MIS 3002 lets a "suitably competent person" carry out the roof check (5.9.4), but it does not say who that person should be. We believe it should be a structural engineer. So our recommendation, the Solar Surveys standard, is that **every roof is checked by a qualified structural engineer acting as the competent person, whatever its pitch and whether or not an MCS trigger applies.** Even as a desktop report, the cost is small against the installation, and it gives you and your customer a signed, documented structural answer for the MCS file.

ALSO CHECK, WHOEVER DOES THE ASSESSMENT

Modules **within 400 mm of a roof edge** need specific measures, including extra fixings for edge-zone uplift	5.9.7
Brackets screwed into **metal cladding**: check the sheet thickness and how the cladding is fixed to the structure	5.9.9, 5.9.10
Mounting kit **not MCS 012 certified**, or used outside its scope: keep evidence of a structural assessment and wind calculation	5.5.5

Design software is not the whole check. Distress, notching and altered timbers can only be seen in the loft, so your surveyor's inspection decides whether an engineer is needed. A failed or incomplete structural calculation counts as doubt under 5.9.6.

WHAT TO SEND US FOR A DESKTOP REPORT

- Address and postcode, property type and number of storeys
- Roof type and covering, pitch, eaves and ridge heights, plan dimensions
- Loft photos with a tape on the rafters or trusses: size, spacing and span
- Photos of any distress, notching, removed timbers or re-roofing
- Panel layout with modules per roof plane, and the module datasheet
- Mounting system and its MCS 012 certificate
- Your pre-installation survey form, if you use one

We aim to issue desktop reports **within 48 hours** of receiving complete information. Each report is signed by a qualified structural engineer and sets out the MIS 3002 position clause by clause for your MCS file.

Summary of MIS 3002 Issue 6.0 (mandatory from 18 June 2026), paraphrased with clause references; the wording is unchanged from Issue 5.0. Clause numbers differ in MIS 3002:2025 Issue 2.0 (for example, 5.9.6 is 3.9.5). Always refer to the current standard. MIS 3002 applies to systems up to 50 kWp.

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