



ECOWAS Certification Scheme for Sustainable Energy Skills

Certification for Off-Grid Solar PV System Technicians (Level 1)

Exam location: Freetown Polytechnic, Kissy Campus

Exam Dates: 4 - 8 November 2024

Tel: +23276646920 +232 76 550593

E-mail: yeabumagbass@yahoo.com, info@reasl.com

www.ecreee.org



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INTRODUCTION

As part of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), with the support of GIZ, IRENA and other partners, has established a regional certification scheme (RCS) to promote professional competence and solve quality problems in renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) equipment and installations.

For RE and EE projects to be successful, the quality of the equipment and technical expertise must be guaranteed. High-quality equipment will only be effective if it is designed, installed and maintained by competent professionals. Therefore, the ECOWAS certification system aims to qualify sustainable energy professionals and promote the safety of installations and the quality of RE and EE products.

The regional certification system is based on the competency reference frameworks (JTA - Job-Task-Analysis) validated by the 15 ECOWAS Member States and with contributions from other stakeholders in the sector. It currently covers stand-alone/off-grid solar photovoltaic system technicians but will be expanded to other RE and EE domains, in line with the ISO/IEC 17024:2012 standard.





BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

- 01 Certification recognized in all ECOWAS countries
- 02 Strengthening the skills of installers
- 03 Reputation, credibility and trust of clients
- 04 Possibility of job mobility within the ECOWAS region
- 05 Techicians from Sierra Leone will be integrated into REASL membership





BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION FOR THE SECTOR

01

Availability of qualified and competent labour

02

A growth of confidence in renewable energies and energy efficiency from potential investors and clients (better performance and risk mitigation)

03

Customer satisfaction (installations in line with international standards, reduction in technical faults, reduction in utilisation costs, etc).



MAIN SKILLS

For this level of certification, the Regional Certification System covers the following Skills for off-grid solar PV system technicians:



Working safely in photovoltaic (PV) systems



Understand the basic principles of solar energy and PV systems



Know the design of PV systems



Installing mechanical and electrical photovoltaic components



Installing cables, connectors, and protective devices



Complete an installation, perform testing, and get the system up and running



Perform maintenance and troubleshooting activities



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility conditions for the exam: the candidate must be at least 18 years old and:



at least two (2) years of **practice as an electrician**; or



at least two (2) years of experience working as a **solar PV installation technician**; or



degree in a field related to **electrical, energy, mechanical engineering**, or equivalent





EXAM DATES AND LOCATION



Deadline for submitting applications for the exam: 4 October 2024



Date of the written exam: November 4, 2024



Date of the practical exam: November 5 - 7, 2024



Location: Freetown Polytechnic, Kissy Campus





FOR MORE INFORMATION

Freetown Polytechnic: yeabumagbass@yahoo.com

REASL: info@reasl.com

Njala University: drd@njala.edu.sl

Ministry of Energy: sheborakamara001@gmail.com

ECREEE: cmendes@ecreee.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Fill out and validate the online registration form through the link:

<https://bit.ly/3BgbrPe>

And send a copy of the file to the addresses:

ibrahim.soumaila@giz.de

cmendes@ecreee.org

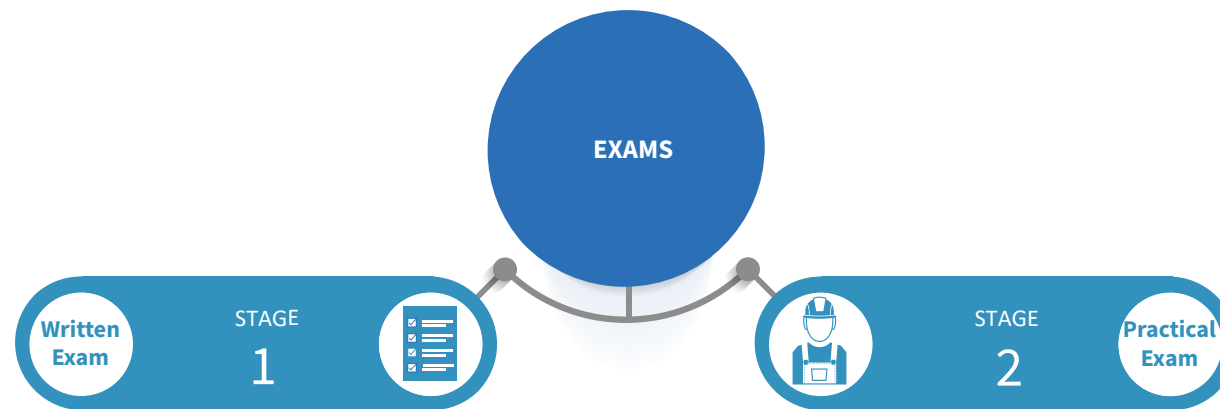
mfurtado@ecreee.org



The regional certification system aims to assess the skills of candidates. Candidates who demonstrate the skills, abilities and knowledge required for the sizing, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic systems during the exam will receive certificates. The process of obtaining a certificate is illustrated in the figure below.



The stages of the exam are illustrated in the figure below. A candidate can only be certified after passing the written and practical exams. The exams aim to assess candidates' skills according to the Job-Task-Analysis.





ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)

Address: Achada Santo António c.p. 288, Praia, Cabo Verde

Contact: (+238) 260 4630 | Email: info@ecreee.org

www.ecreee.org

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