

Table 1. Maximum Horizontal Anchor Spacing				
Roof Slope		Rafter		
		16" o.c.	24" o.c.	32" o.c.
Photovoltaic Arrays (4 psf max)				
Flat to 6:12	0° to 26°	5'-4"	6'-0"	5'-4"
7:12 to 12:12	27° to 45°	1'-4"	2'-0"	2'-8"
13:12 to 24:12	46° to 63°	1'-4"	2'-0"	2'-8"

Solar support component manufacturer's guidelines may be relied upon to ensure the array above the roof is properly designed, but manufacturer's guidelines typically do NOT check to ensure that the roof itself can support the concentrated loads from the solar array. Table 1 assumes that the roof complied with the building code in effect at the time of construction, and places limits on anchor horizontal spacing to ensure that a roof structure is not overloaded under either downward loads or wind uplift loads.

Table 2. Roof Rafter Maximum Horizontal Span (feet - inches) ¹								
Assumed Vintage	Nominal Size	Actual Size	Non-Tile Roof			Tile Roof		
			Rafter Spacing					
			16" o.c.	24" o.c.	32" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	32" o.c.
Post-1960	2x4	1½"x3½"	9'-10"	8'-0"	6'-6"	8'-6"	6'-11"	5'-6"
	2x6	1½"x5½"	14'-4"	11'-9"	9'-6"	12'-5"	10'-2"	8'-0"
	2x8	1½"x7¼"	18'-2"	14'-10"	12'-0"	15'-9"	12'-10"	10'-3"
Pre-1960	2x4	1¾"x3¾"	11'-3"	9'-9"	7'-9"	10'-3"	8'-6"	6'-9"
	2x6	1¾"x5¾"	17'-0"	14'-0"	11'-3"	14'-9"	12'-0"	9'-9"
	2x8	1¾"x7¾"	22'-3"	18'-0"	14'-6"	19'-0"	15'-6"	12'-6"

Beyond a visual review by the contractor checking for unusual sagging or deterioration, some CBOs may want additional assurance that the roof structure complies with structural building code requirements. Table 2 is an optional table some CBOs may elect to use to provide additional assurance by requiring a check of existing roof rafter spans, and supports optional criteria 1.B.5 and 1.B.6. For post-1960 construction, these span tables match the rafter span tables found in the 2013 California Building and Residential codes. For pre-1960 construction, the rafter span tables are based on structural calculations with lumber sizes and wood species and grade appropriate for older construction.