SOLAR iBOOST

Solar iBoost FAQs

What is the distance range between the Solar iBoost and the wireless sender?

Approx. 500m line of sight, or up to 30m within a building. The strength of the signal can be affected by thick walls in a similar way to a wireless router or a cordless phone in your home.

What is the life expectancy of batteries in the Solar iBoost's wireless sender?

Approx. 12 months from installation. A warning symbol flashes and a message appears on the Solar iBoost display advising that the batteries in the sender are low.

Is the Solar iBoost a "proportional controller" or a switch?

Solar iBoost cleverly only allows the excess power generated to be diverted to the immersion, as this varies the Solar iBoost manages that power into the immersion to any Watt value up to 3kW. It is not an open and close switch.

How does the Solar iBoost know when my water tank is fully heated?

Your immersion element contains a thermostat to switch the element off when the desired temperature is reached. The Solar iBoost display will read 'Water Tank HOT'. Check that your immersion has a thermostat control as, rarely, some very old ones do not.

What's the maximum immersion heater power rating I can use with the Solar iBoost?

Any immersion element rated up to 3kW is suitable. As the immersion element is a resistive load it will accept any variable amount of power up to its rated maximum. This enables it to accept even the smallest amount of power sent to it from the Solar iBoost and start heating water.

Where should the Solar iBoost sender and clamp be fitted?

The Solar iBoost transmitter and clamp should be fitted inside the utility meter cabinet. Ensure the clamp is fitted with the latch firmly closed around the live feed from the utility meter to the consumer unit. A label on the clamp clearly indicates to the installer how to be sure of fitting it in the correct orientation. The clamp should be fitted on the utility meter side of a Henley block if present.

Can I install another immersion or towel rail to the second Solar iBoost output?

The second Solar iBoost output is independent of the export electricity being monitored and it draws its power from the grid. This connection is most useful for households heating water by electricity only who also want to heat water on economy tariffs. A built in 7 day timer enables 2 settings per day.

What warranty will I get with the Solar iBoost?

Two years.

Can I use the Solar iBoost with a three phase system?

Yes, although it can only be connected onto one phase. In three phase system it is very rare that all phases are equally loaded; therefore we recommend that the installer either attaches the Solar iBoost clamp to the phase with the lowest load or the phase that feeds the immersion heater.

Can I connect a Solar iBoost to each of the three phases?

No. This arrangement can cause measurements to become very inaccurate and there is a risk of drawing electricity from the grid.

Does the Solar iBoost affect my Feed in Tariff Payments?

Solar iBoost does not affect your FiT Generation payments. Where you have a "deemed" usage contract with you FiT provider you will be paid for the export value regardless of whether the energy is consumed or not. This is normally based on 50% of the generation reading and will not be affected. Where an export meter is fitted the benefits of the Solar iBoost can still easily outweigh the rising energy costs of water heating.

When does my Solar iBoost start putting energy into my hot water tank?

As your PV array starts to generate in excess of your household power requirement the Solar iBoost will begin to "dump" energy into your hot water tank. For example if you have 2.2kW of export energy then the Solar iBoost will dump 2kW into the immersion to heat your tank of water. There is a buffer of 200W to ensure that the Solar iBoost deals smoothly with the changing use of household energy and the PV array's generation thus avoiding any draw from the grid.

I've heard devices like this can cause flicker; does the Solar iBoost have this problem?

The Solar iBoost uses a special switching method to switch power into the immersion heater, this technology does not generate flicker. A Solar iBoost installation will therefore not suffer with the effects associated with flicker.

How do I integrate the Solar iBoost with an Economy 7 timer?

The Solar iBoost includes a programmable timer for 2 times which can be used to replace existing timers. At the user preset times grid power will be diverted to the immersion at full power independently of the pv generation.

How much does the Solar iBoost cost?

Contact your local qualified electrician or PV installer who will quote for the cost of installing the unit including the Solar iBoost itself, this normally costs from £295.00 plus fitting.

Is there a repeater available to boost the signal of the Solar iBoost sender?

The range of the Solar iBoost is typically effective in most UK households and experience to date has been good. We will continue to monitor performance and develop a repeater if we see customer demand.

Can I use the Solar iBoost with other renewable technologies such as wind turbines?

Yes, the Solar iBoost measures the export at your utility meter so if you regularly export power from your property then this unit is right for you.

What happens if I switch on my kettle and the Solar iBoost is working?

The clamp rapidly detects changes between import and export and sends a signal to the Solar iBoost to taper back any water heating to maintain export levels at 200W. If exports drop below that Solar iBoost switches off and waits until export of 200W or more is restored to return to water heating.

What happens if I have a power cut?

The Solar iBoost automatically detects that there is no export taking place and stops heating water. It resumes when export is next detected.

Does it matter what type of inverter I have installed?

Solar iBoost is not dependent on the type of inverter and there will not be any interference between the two devices.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact: sales@aeslimited.co.uk or 01794-830404