

IOWA WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE 25-03

TO: Weatherization Coordinators and Staff

FROM: Christine Taylor, Weatherization Program Manager

DATE: July 21, 2025

RE: Iowa Weatherization Work Standards Updates

Effective: July 28, 2025

The Work Standards have been updated for PY25. Outlined below are major changes. Both a final and redline version are attached for your convenience.

It is recommended to review the manuals in their entirety to ensure a clear understanding of all changes that were made.

Iowa Work Standards – Major Changes

- Section 1012 Fuel Switching
 - When determining whether it is cost-effective to switch fuels, actual costs associated with the installation of a new system using a different type of fuel must be considered and included in the WAweb (NEAT/MHEA Audit) to prove cost effectiveness.
 - Use of the Fuel Switching Calculation Form is no longer required.
- Section 1015 Work Order
 - Added information about entering heating unit and water heater bid costs into the modeling software.
 - Clarified that it is best practice to complete all heating unit and water heater work prior to general weatherization work. When completing general weatherization work first, an explanation regarding the need to do so must be in the file.
- Section 1017 Required Test and Documentation
 - Carbon monoxide (CO) readings (for both pre- and post-weatherization) for each gas appliance, except gas stove burners. ~~and clothes dryers.~~ (See [Section 2043](#))

- Section 1020 Work Deferral
 - Gas leaks may be addressed as described in Section 2021.
- Section 2021 Fuel Lines
 - Added instruction regarding when there is a gas leak on the utility side (Iowa PN 24-05).
 - Gas leaks must be verified with a soapy solution or by any means possible to eliminate false positives.
- Section 2023.02 Heating Unit Safety
 - Clarified that it is best practice to complete all heating unit and water heater work prior to general weatherization work. When completing general weatherization work first, an explanation regarding the need to do so must be in the file.
- Section 2023.03 Heating Unit Clean & Tune
 - The contractor must provide pictures of the blower motor pulled (pre and post cleaning) and the secondary heat exchanger (pre and post cleaning).
 - Subtopics - Gas Forced Air, Oil Forced Air: If the heating system is a two-pipe high efficiency system and is over two years old, the blower must be removed to clean the secondary heat exchanger. The contractor must provide pictures of the blower motor pulled (pre and post cleaning) and the secondary heat exchanger (pre and post cleaning).
- Section 2023.04 Heating Unit Installation
 - Attic Furnace: Only 95%+ high efficient furnaces may be installed.
- Section 2042 Spillage Testing
 - Documentation: A picture of the smoke test must be in the file.
 - WX Worker: Test naturally drafting appliances for spillage with smoke (not with a mirror).
- Section 2043 Carbon Monoxide Testing
 - Cooking Stove: If a gas leak is identified inside the unit, program funds may be used to repair or replace the unit.
- Section 2051 Blower Door Test
 - Documentation: QCI must ensure that blower door targets are met by referring to the Estimated Post-Wx Blower Door Readings chart, found in the WAweb (NEAT/MHEA Audit) Manual. If the post-weatherization blower door reading is more than 30% higher than the target, the QCI must investigate and address potential issues. If the target range still cannot be achieved, justification must be documented in the file. See Section 5.80 of the *Iowa Weatherization Policy and Procedures Manual* for additional guidance.
 - References to DG-700 have been replaced with DG-1000.
- Section 2060 Carbon Monoxide, Smoke, & Propane Alarms
 - CO Alarms - WX Worker: CO alarms must be installed within 10 feet of all sleeping rooms. CO alarms installed by the program must have internal non-replaceable batteries for the life of the alarm (minimum of TEN (10) years).

- Smoke Alarms - WX Worker: Smoke alarms installed by the program must have internal non-replaceable batteries for the life of the alarm (minimum of TEN (10) years).
- Section 2081 Energy Recovery Ventilation (ERV)
 - Energy Auditor/Inspector: The Ventilation and Your Home form must be completed and provided to the client when a new ERV is installed by the program.
- Section 2090.01 Spot Ventilation (health and safety for moisture)
 - Mechanical ventilation is not required in every home and should only be installed when clearly justified by measurable moisture issues.
 - Added verification, documentation and justification, and installation criteria and restrictions.
- Section 2091 Ventilation Systems for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality
 - If a basement has a living space finished as to the likeness of the upstairs finished area, include the basement area in the overall floor area.
 - If basement is not included in the overall floor area calculation, a fan cannot be installed in the basement to meet ASHRAE requirements.
 - Controls should be labeled as to their function.
 - Complete a separate Ventilation and Your Home form for each new exhaust fan installed.
- Section 2091.07 Exhaust Fan Venting
 - WX Worker: Clarified that duct support instruction apply to all suspended ductwork and venting.
- Section 2190 Animals
 - Subtopics - Energy Auditor/Inspector, WX Worker: If a worker is bitten by a bat, an attempt should be made to capture the entire bat without destroying the head.
- Section 4030 Windows and Doors
 - Grade and lower grade doors are referred to as accesses.
 - Doors: Garage accesses to dwelling installed with program funds must meet code, including 20-minute fire rating and self-closing hinge.
 - Lower Grade: Solid core slab accesses are not allowed to be installed.
- Section 5011 Attic Air Sealing
 - Verify the presence of an aligned air barrier and thermal boundary between the attic and living space.
- Section 5013.02 Attic Access Hole
 - It must be surrounded with a durable insulation dam that is higher than the level of the surrounding attic floor insulation.
 - 1"x12's shall be used for the box of the scuttle hole.
 - The box must be constructed to support the weight of a person entering the attic.
- Section 5020 Sidewall Insulation
 - Manufactured Homes - WX Worker: Clarified how interior drilling work is to be done.

- Section 7010 Incidental Repairs
 - Grade and lower grade doors are referred to as accesses.