

POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

10/25/2010

2024 Water Heater Replacement:

When water heaters are installed on the main floor of a house and the surface that the water heater is installed on is something other than concrete (wood or vinyl), the water heater does not have to be off the floor or have a pan under it. These measures are recommended in all cases, but not required in the situation described above.

Section 2030 – Combustion Appliance and Dryer Venting:

Dryer duct installed with program funds on gas dryers must be metal flex or rigid metal duct. Existing foil duct does not need to be replaced if it is rated for a gas appliance.

To get enough height for the chimney termination above the roof, the National Fuel Gas Code is to be followed. Required height of the termination varies depending upon cap type and pitch of roof. Chapter 12 for the 2009 NFPA Code covers these requirements.

Intake and exhaust pipes for high efficiency furnaces need to be supported as per the furnace manufacturer's installation instructions or no more than 4 feet apart.

2052 Zone Pressure Tests:

Garage Leakage Test – If the house to garage pressure reading is over 48 pa, then it is not necessary to do the rest of the testing. In this case, the pressure reading needs to be noted in WAMS in the memo field.

When reporting garage leakage test in WAMS on the technical information screen, the CFM reading of the house to zone (garage) needs to be entered into the appropriate field – not the total path.

2090 Mechanical Ventilation

Exhaust Fans – Whenever possible, existing exhaust fans should be tested for CFM flow. This measurement can then be entered in the DTL as the effective (actual) flow, rather than using the chart. It can also be used for determining the size of fan needed to meet the BTL for needed ventilation and to decide if a replacement fan should be installed.

Caulk:

100% silicone caulk may be used in place of high temperature caulk unless local code does not allow it.

5000 Insulation:

Floored Attic – **do not** blow over top of a floored attic. Insulation must be dense packed UNDER the floor. This is not new, but a reminder.

Crawlspace insulation – Two-part foam insulation may be used any time NEAT calls for crawlspace insulation. The costs that are in the audit for crawlspace insulation is for the installation of fiberglass. The same costs are to be used regardless of type of insulation being installed – no additional costs are to be included in NEAT.

All areas of insulation – any time an attic or crawlspace is not accessible, photo documentation of all completed work must be in the file. This includes sealing of by-passes, heat source shields, insulation, etc.

DOE monitors have suggested that an insulation certificate indicating number of bags installed, R-Value, name and address of the installer as well as date of installation be left in the attic rather than just leaving an empty bag. As of right now, this is NOT a DOE requirement, but is likely to become one soon. The cellulose bags include this certificate. DCAA recommends this certificate be completed and stapled to the rafter above the attic access or to the top of the access lid (anyplace easily located by the client). When this becomes a DOE requirement, the standards will address the issue.

Attic Access and Kneewall Doors – When building access holes, the net (finished) opening must be the width of the joists or studs and at least 20 inches the other direction.

Insulation Barrier – Insulation barrier must be installed around metal chimneys and brick chimneys without liners even if not used at the present time. Clearance from the heat source of no less than 3” is required. Insulation barrier is not required around inoperable exhaust fans. Insulation barrier or boxing (as per standards) must be completed on all recessed lights, even if inoperable.

NEAT/MHEA:

In MHEA, the door selection is limited, so select the choice that best describes the existing door. It will not have any effect on what the audit calls for.

DOE has cited a regulation that states all repair costs need to have an individual SIR of 1 or greater or be tied to an energy efficiency measure with an SIR of 1 or greater. We will be working on moving toward that requirement when we redo our audit authorization in 2012. Our current method of handling the SIR for repairs was approved with the last audit authorization which expires in 2012.

WAMS:

The original estimated cost for materials and labor on a house is to be entered in WAMS in the notes section of sequence number 1010.

Expenses associated with Lead Safe Work Practices need to be reported in WAMS sequence number 9500 as a Health and Safety expense.