

IOWA WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE 10-05

TO: Weatherization Coordinators

FROM: Gwen Howe, Bureau of Weatherization

DATE: October 25, 2010

RE: Standard Changes

Purpose: To issue changes in the Iowa Weatherization Standards and Policy & Procedure Manual. All changes will be effective on houses evaluated beginning November 1, 2010.

Work Standards

The following changes have been made to the Work Standards. These changes will be included in the Work Standards manuals at the next printing.

Section 2021 Gas Leaks

Replacing copper piping on natural gas appliances is not required unless leaking or required by local code or the appliance is being replaced with weatherization funds (furnace or water heater). Brass connectors on all appliances are to be replaced.

Section 2023.04 Heating Unit Installation

When installing a new furnace, it must be installed at least ¾" off the floor on blocks, rubber or plastic mat. Concrete pads are not acceptable. This also applies when installing furnaces on the return plenum. The plenum must be at least ¾" off the floor.

All gas piping must be installed according to the American Gas Association (AGA) specification and any other appropriate codes. If replacing a natural gas furnace which uses copper piping, the copper pipe must also be replaced. Brass connectors to all appliances must be replaced.

Section 2024.03 Water Heater Installation

When installing a new water heater, it must be installed at least ¾" off the floor on blocks, rubber or plastic mat. Concrete pads are not acceptable. All gas piping must be installed according to the American Gas Association (AGA) specification and any other appropriate codes. If replacing a natural gas water heater which uses copper piping, the copper pipe must also be replaced. Brass connectors to all appliances must be replaced.

Section 2060 Carbon Monoxide, Smoke and Propane Gas Alarms

Propane Gas Alarms – Propane alarms are not required by weatherization and should be installed only when required by local code. There are different types of propane gas alarms – some are just alarms which sound when a leak is detected, others actually shut down the flow of gas into the house. Either type is acceptable. If required by local code, and need to be connected to electricity, an outlet must be provided. Alarms are to be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions

and meet the proper UL listing. When required by code, the cost of the alarm and installation must be included in the bid proposal.

Section 2090 Mechanical Ventilation

Whenever possible, duct work coming off the fan should be horizontal for at least two feet to obtain correct flow.

Intermittent Fans

- Sone level of 1.0 or less certified by the Home Ventilation Institute (HVI),
- Must be rated for continuous use,
- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for insulating over a newly installed fan,
- Energy efficient – lowest wattage available,
- Must be sized to provide the required flow (as established by the BTLA) at .25 w.g.
- Do not insulate over an existing fan, install damming material around it in the manner described in Section 5014.04.
- Intermittent fans installed in bathrooms should have a concealed timer switch or sensor switch which can be set for an extended period of time rather than a dehumidistat. Dehumidistats are allowed, just not recommended in bathrooms.

Continuous Operated Fans

- Continuous operated fans should be controlled by a dehumidistat.
- DO NOT INSTALL A DEHUMIDISTAT ON AN EXISTING FAN.
- Sone level of 1.0 or less certified by the Home Ventilation Institute (HVI),
- Must be rated for continuous use,
- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for insulating over a newly installed fan,
- Energy efficient – lowest wattage available,
- Must be sized to provide the required flow (as established by the BTLA) at .25 w.g.
- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for insulating over a newly installed fan.
- Do not insulate over an existing fan, install damming material around it in the manner described in Section 5014.04.
- Controls for fans installed in should be easily accessible to the client

Section 2153 Vermiculite Testing

Vermiculite testing may be completed at laboratories that are accredited by either the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) OR by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Laboratory Accreditation Industrial Hygiene Program (IHLAP) for the Field Testing (FOT) of polarized Light Microscopy.

Section 8022.03 Water Heater Installation – Mobile Homes

All water heaters installed must have a pressure relief valve with an extension which extends through the floor and underbelly.

Policy and Procedure Manual

The following changes have been made to the Policy and Procedure Manual. These changes will be included in the policy manuals at the next printing.

Section 5.34 Utility-Funded Measures

Refrigerator and freezer replacements funded by utility companies do not need to be Energy Star Rated or manual defrost. They must just meet the BART criteria for replacement.

Section 5.65 Disaster Relief Activities

Program funds may only be used once to re-weatherize homes damaged by a disaster. When utilizing funds for disaster relief activities, an agency needs to consider relocating major appliances such as furnaces and water heaters to an area not prone to flooding or other types of damage.