



IOWA WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE 11-01

Date: May 31, 2011

To: Weatherization Coordinators
WAMS Data Staff

CC: State Weatherization Staff

From: Gwen Howe, WX Bureau Chief

Re: Furnace/Water Heater Replacement for Efficiency Reason

Effective: June 1, 2011

One of the new DOE requirements is to install furnaces and water heaters for health and safety reasons only if they cannot be replaced as an energy efficiency measure. In order to follow these new guidelines, Iowa will change weatherization procedures to require all furnace replacements be run through the audit to determine potential cost effectiveness.

The NEAT audit is already set to accept information on furnaces and furnace replacements. The average costs for furnace replacements have been entered in individual agency audits.

If testing determines that a furnace must be replaced for safety reasons, evaluators will include furnace data in the audit and use the "Mandatory Replacement" choice. The NEAT audit will call for a furnace replacement. If the individual SIR of 1.0 or greater, the furnace may be replaced for efficiency reasons. If the SIR is less than 1.0, the furnace will be replaced as a health and safety measure.

If a furnace is not a safety hazard, but might be old and inefficient, the NEAT audit may be used to determine if it can be replaced. By entering the furnace data in NEAT and using the "Optional" replacement selection, NEAT will only call for a furnace replacement for efficiency reasons. If NEAT calls for a furnace replacement with an individual SIR of 1.0 or greater, then the furnace may be replaced for efficiency reasons. If the NEAT does not call for furnace replacement or the individual SIR is less than 1.0, the furnace may not be replaced.

NEAT data inputs for efficiency ratings on the existing heating system may be either the value listed on the furnace plate or actual steady state efficiency test results (test results must be documented in the client file). A combustion gas analyzer is required to test steady state efficiency. All agencies should either already have or should purchase the equipment to perform the steady state efficiency tests. It is recommended that the combustion gas analyzer have the capability to read steady state efficiency, so the evaluator will have an instant test result.

Sequence numbers have been added to WAMS for reporting heating systems replaced for efficiency reasons. Sequence number 9200, 9201 and 9202 will be used to report furnaces, boilers and heat pumps installed as efficiency measures.

Water heater replacement for efficiency reasons will require some changes in your NEAT Audit program. Water heaters will need to be selected as a candidate measure in the NEAT Set Up. Agencies will also need to build a library of water heaters used in their areas in the Set Up section. Agencies may gather the information for this library through historical data or by gathering data from their contractors on manufacturers and model numbers. Please contact Bob Freese, 515-480-3537, if you have any questions about making these changes.

The cost to install the new water heater (materials and labor) must be listed on the input screen. If the NEAT audit calls for a water heater replacement with an individual SIR of 1.0 or greater, then the water heater may be replaced for efficiency reasons. If the SIR is less than 1.0, the measure will not show on the NEAT audit output report and the water heater will be replaced as a health and safety measure.

It has been our experience that unless the water heater fuel type is being switched from electric or propane to natural gas, NEAT will not call for it as an efficiency measure. The measure must still be run through the audit to show that it must be installed as a health and safety measure. If the water heater may be replaced for efficiency reason, sequence number 8420 – 8424 will be used to report in WAMS.

A new MatTempTemplate for WAMS has been sent to your agency with instructions for importing the new table into your system. It contains all the items mentioned above. Flat rate users, please be sure to re-enter your costs for labor and materials.

In addition to those measures mentioned above, other measures have been added to the new MatTempTemplate. They are:

1. 3061 Attic Access - complete w/framing, stop, trim, lid, ws, insul - *this will be used for those who bid attic access as one item. It would be used for ALL attic accesses including kneewall doors.*
2. 5400 Duct Insulation – *This is an existing measure – it will now only be used for exhaust duct insulation. Utilities will not pay for this.*
3. 5401 Duct Insulation – *This is new – it will be used for heating and cooling duct insulation. This was added because the utilities will now pay for this measure*
4. 6757 Pest removal – *This measure was added because the 2011 state plan included this as an allowable measure under health and safety. The plan has not been approved yet, but when it is, this will be available to use*
5. 6758 Minor Asbestos Removal - *This measure was added because the 2011 state plan included this as an allowable measure under health and safety. The plan has not been approved yet, but when it is, this will be available to use*
6. 8691 LP Alarm – *LP alarms may only be installed when local code requires.*

If you have any questions concerning this, please feel free to contact the any of the state weatherization staff.