Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

IOWA WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE 15-01

TO: Executive Directors and Weatherization Coordinators

FROM: Gwen Howe, Bureau of Weatherization

DATE: April 9, 2015

RE: Weatherization Work Standards

Purpose: Final implementation of the Iowa Weatherization Work Standards

Effective Date: Immediately

All houses evaluated April 10, 2015 and after will be completed using the revised Iowa Weatherization Standards and Field Guide Manual which were approved by DOE on April 9, 2015.

Listed below are recent revisions to the manual.

1010 SUMMARY OF STANDARDS

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide alarms are required in all dwellings.

2060 CARBON MONOXIDE, SMOKE AND PROPANE ALARMS

CO Alarms

A working carbon monoxide alarm must be present in every home. Program funds may be used to installed carbon monoxide alarms if one does not exist.

2130 ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Knob & Tube Wiring

Unless prohibited by local codes, S-type fuses must be installed in homes having knob and tube wiring, to provide over-current protection. If S-type fuses will not work because of overloaded circuits, a new service panel must be installed and the house brought up to code. Agencies may use either General Health and Safety Repair funds (within limits) or the pilot project described below to complete this work.

5010 ATTIC INSULATION

5012 Attic/Roof

- Houses with knob & tube wiring:
  - Must have S-type fuses installed to provide over-current protection. A rule of thumb is to use 15 amp fuses for 14-gauge wire and 20 amp fuses for 12-gauge wire. Explain to the client the importance of properly fused circuits.
  - At agency discretion, a licensed electrical contractor may inspect and certify all K&T wiring to be safe. In those cases, fiberglass and cellulose insulation are acceptable for use in contact with K&T.
  - Live knob and tube, not certified as safe by electrical contractor, will not be covered or surrounded. A dam that does not cover the top will be created using un-faced-fiberglass batt to separate insulation from the wire path.

5014 Attic Insulation – All types

Knob & Tube Wiring

Based on work order, attics with active knob and tube wiring may be treated in one of two ways.

- Knob & tube wiring certified safe by a licensed electrician, fiberglass and cellulose insulation are acceptable for use in contact with K&T. The attic may be fully insulated.
- Knob & tube wiring not certified as safe by a licensed electrician will have the wiring isolated. A dam that does not cover the top will be created to separate insulation from the wire path. If the wiring is above the joists, an un-faced fiberglass batt at least 6 inches wide must be installed below the wiring. A dam shall be created using un-faced fiberglass batts at least 14 inches in width and equivalent to an R-38 to prevent attic insulation from covering the wiring. The balance of the attic may be blown to required insulation depth without covering any knob & tube. If the knob and tube wiring goes through the joists, do not insulate below the wiring, just create the dam as described earlier.

5020 SIDEWALLS

5021 Sidewall Insulation

Knob & Tube Wiring

Based on work order, walls with active knob and tube wiring may be treated in one of two ways.

- Knob & tube wiring certified safe by a licensed electrician, fiberglass and cellulose insulation are acceptable for use in contact with K&T. The walls may be fully insulated.
- Sidewalls with active knob & tube wiring not certified as safe by a licensed electrician will not be insulated.