

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: June 10, 2009
REPLY TO:
ATTN OF: EE-2K
SUBJECT: Weatherization Program Notice 09-8, Upgraded Version of the Weatherization Assistant Energy Audit Software
TO: Charles Zeh, Director, Project Management Center
Rita Wells, Executive Director for Field Operations and Manager, Golden Field Office

Weatherization Program Notice 09-8, Upgraded Version of The Weatherization Assistant Energy Audit Software dated, June 10, 2009 is forward to you for distribution to the States.

This document will be provided both electronically and as an original hardcopy. Please contact James Childs at (202) 586-2337, if you have any questions.



Gilbert P. Sperling
Program Manager
Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program
Energy Efficiency and Renewable

Attachment

cc: Angela Young
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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE 09-8
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2009

SUBJECT: UPGRADED VERSION OF THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANT ENERGY AUDIT SOFTWARE

PURPOSE: To provide States with information on how to obtain the latest version of the Weatherization Assistant (Version 8.5), which includes revisions to the National Energy Audit Tool (NEAT) that allow storm windows installed as retrofits to be described as low-e.

SCOPE: This guidance applies to the distribution of Version 8.5 of the Weatherization Assistant energy audit software.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Title IV, Energy Conservation and Production Act, as amended, authorizes the Department of Energy to administer the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program. All grant awards made under this program shall comply with applicable law including regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 440 (most recently issued June 22, 2006), and other procedures applicable to this regulation as DOE may from time to time prescribe for the administration of financial assistance.

BACKGROUND: The Weatherization Assistant is an energy audit program developed and maintained by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) that contains the National Energy Audit Tool (NEAT) for site-built single-family houses and the Manufactured Home Energy Audit (MHEA) for mobile homes. Advances in the window industry have made low-e windows and storm windows more available and with improved characteristics. Changes to NEAT made available through this release allow users to describe the characteristics of the replacement windows (both standard and low-e) and storm windows installed as energy efficiency measures. The parameters now used for the storm window description can represent the units as low-e.

PROCEDURES: DOE is pleased to announce the availability of the updated version of the Weatherization Assistant (Version 8.5) with enhancements allowing for greater flexibility in describing low-e window and storm window units. The Weatherization Assistant is licensed and copyrighted, but it is still available at no cost to state and local weatherization agencies. Version 8.5 of the Weatherization Assistant is posted to the Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center (WAPTAC) website provided below. The installation file, as well as instructions for obtaining and installing the new version of the software, can be downloaded from this website.

http://www.waptac.org/sp.asp?mc=tech aids_audits

TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION: The changes made to NEAT to improve its handling of windows and storm windows resulted in the addition of a form in the Setup/Key Parameters section of the program which contains six numerical entries that users can modify to characterize replacement windows and storm windows. No changes in the existing values are necessary if standard window types are used. Only if agencies wish to use replacement windows with enhanced characteristics or storm windows which are low-e would changes need to be made. Values for the new entries under these circumstances would be taken from the window manufacturer data or on-line tabulated data, such as is available from the National Fenestration Rating Council, <http://www.nfrc.org/>.

No instruction beyond that given for Version 8.4 of the Weatherization Assistant is necessary to use Version 8.5 except for indicating to users the ability to model enhanced window systems and where to modify parameters to characterize such systems. However, DOE remains committed in providing states with whatever training they feel necessary, whether it be for first time users, to refine understanding of the Weatherization Assistant for existing users, or to help with understanding and implementing the optional features of the program. States should contact their Project Management Center representatives or ORNL directly with their training needs so that this training can be scheduled.



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