



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

**WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM NOTICE 10-16**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 28, 2010

**SUBJECT:** CLARIFICATION ON SELECTION OF TYPES OF INSULATION MATERIALS ALLOWABLE FOR USE IN THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**PURPOSE:** To provide clarification on the types of insulation allowable for use in the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

**SCOPE:** The provisions of this guidance apply to States or other entities named in the Notification of Grant Award as the recipient of financial assistance under the Department of Energy (DOE) WAP.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** Title IV, Energy Conservation and Production Act, as amended, authorizes the Department of Energy to administer the WAP. All grant awards made under this program shall comply with applicable law and regulations including, but not limited to, the WAP Regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 440.

**BACKGROUND:** Various types of insulation materials are allowable for use in the WAP. The types of allowable insulation materials are found in Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 440 and include mineral fiber, mineral cellular, organic fiber, organic cellular - including cellulose loose-fill insulation ("cellulose"), and composite boards. States and local agencies decide what types of insulation materials work best in their respective programs. The most popular type of insulation materials used in the program is cellulose. Consequently, over the years when referring to insulation materials, many training centers, training materials, etc., used the term "cellulose" when, in fact, the generic term insulation materials should have been used, to describe this material. Using a term that represents only one specific type of insulation material has the potential to create confusion as to what types of insulation are acceptable.

**GUIDANCE:** DOE reminds State and local agencies, training centers, and all recipients of DOE funds that all types of insulation materials listed in Appendix A are permissible under the program regulations (see attached pdf). All current and future written materials, training materials, websites, etc., should reflect the generic reference to

insulation materials. All recipients of DOE funds should refrain from making singular reference to any product type when describing an insulation material. If a reference is used, then every type of insulation material must be included in the example so that no preference is displayed for one product type over another.

Grantees are reminded of the rules governing the procurement of building insulation products and materials containing recovered materials. Specifically, the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) program is authorized by Congress under Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Executive Order 13423. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to designate products that are or can be made with recovered materials, and to recommend practices for buying these products. Once a product is designated, procuring agencies are required to purchase it with the highest recovered material content level practicable.

For more information on these products, Grantees should consult the EPA website <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/tools/cpg/products/building.htm>.

**CONCLUSION:** The generic reference to material selection will help to ensure that all available and acceptable products are considered. The same care must be taken in referencing any other weatherization materials and/or repair materials used in the Program.

It is a pleasure to work with you on this important challenge. I look forward to the growth of this program and our continued partnership to ensure that *Weatherization Works!*



Claire Broido Johnson  
Acting Program Manager  
Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Attachment