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MEMO
WX-2017-4

TO: Agency Directors, Fiscal Officers and Weatherization Coordinators

FROM: Steve Divan, Weatherization Program Manager

RE: DOE Variance Approval

DATE 8/4/2017

Greetings,

Upon a recent submittal to the US DOE, OHCS has received approval for two variances from the Standard Work Specifications (SWS). Effective immediately, the changes listed below are in effect:

Variance #1:
Attic Electrical Box Marking
SWS: 4.1005.2a
OR Field Guide: Section 1.12 – Ceiling Electrical Junctions (No Written Changes)

The SWS does not distinguish between junction boxes accessible only from the attic space and junction boxes accessible from inside the conditioned space (i.e. – ceiling light fixtures). The variance submitted and approved clarified that Oregon will not mark junction boxes accessible from the inside of the conditioned space. Oregon will continue to mark junction boxes accessible only from the attic space. As this is a clarification of the existing language in the field guide, there will be no changes to existing language.

Variance #2:
Energy Star Window Requirement
SWS: 3.1203.3c
OR Field Guide: Section 7.11 – Replacement Windows and Patio Doors

The SWS requires that all windows installed must be Energy Star rated. The added expense and limited return does not justify the Energy Star requirement. OHCS submitted reasoning and gained approval for going to a simplified standard of .30 U-value and no specified SHGC.

Existing language:
Windows and Patio doors installed under the program shall be Energy Star™ rated or equivalent for use in Oregon. Windows funded under utility programs may have additional requirements.
(SWS 3.1203.4a - 3.1203.3c)
Updated language:
Windows and Patio doors installed under the program shall have a U-value of .30 or lower. Windows funded under utility programs may have additional requirements. (SWS 3.1203.4a - 3.1203.3c VARIANCE)

The approved variances will be added to the Oregon Weatherization Field Guide with the next update. Until that time, this memo may be used as justification to utilize the above standards.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Figueredo at (503) 986-0972.

Best Regards,

Steve Divan
Weatherization Program Manager