

Best Practice - Authorizing Weatherization-related Repairs

Date: Revised January 5, 2017

Subject: Authorizing weatherization-related repairs via the energy audit software

Problem or Question: Are repairs that are necessary to make weatherization possible and valid justified by the energy audit authorized in guidance from TDHCA?

Discussion:

- Yes, such repairs are possible and authorized via the energy audit and TDHCA. These repairs do not need to rank individually. In fact, these repairs may have no savings factor at all. However, the proposed repairs must be necessary to make weatherization work possible and these repairs must be included in the SIR of the whole-house assessment (unlike health and safety work). Thus, after repairs are included the entire house must still have an SIR rating greater than one.
- To accomplish energy audit justification of weatherization-related repairs that are specific to this particular unit use the “itemized cost field” to enter the measure name, the cost, and the material (optional). Be sure to check the “include in SIR” box to make sure the energy audit treats the measure as a repair. Note: If you do not check the “include in SIR” box, then the energy audit will consider the measure a Health and Safety item, which is not accurate.
- To accomplish the energy audit justification of weatherization-related repairs that are frequently encountered, go into the “set-up library” from the main menu of the energy audit. Select the “user-defined measures” tab. Create a “new measures” entry. (NOTE: this will add this option to the set-up library for future audits) Make sure to check the “include in SIR” box.
- When done, check the “Recommended Measures Report” to ensure that the repair measure falls above Seal Ducts and/or Infiltration Reduction measures in the “Energy Saving Measures Economics” section.

Energy Saving Measure Economics

	<i>Index</i>	<i>Recommended Measure</i>	<i>Components</i>	<i>Measure Savings (\$/yr)</i>	<i>Measure Cost (\$)</i>	<i>Measure SIR</i>	<i>Cumulative Cost (\$)</i>	<i>Cumulative SIR</i>
Repairs	1	Siding repair		0	150	0.0	150	0.0
	2	Seal Ducts		728	252	24.6	402	15.4
	3	Infiltration Redctn		92	800	1.0	1202	5.8

LIHEAP WAP (applicable to DOE, as well) defines repairs as:

Incidental Repairs: Repairs necessary on items for the effective preservation of weatherized materials.

Contributory items: Items required by WAP field standards to achieve a final product in a typical installation. Contributory items must be necessary to complete the proper installation and ensure proper performance of the ECM.

Recommendation Summary: Yes, weatherization-related repairs are a justified option. Use the “itemized cost field” (and, for frequent repairs, the set-up library) to create repair measures to use in the energy audit to justify repairs.