

DOE Priority List (PL) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General PL

1. Is there a way we can obtain a copy of the DOE Priority List (PL) recording or presentation?

Yes. A copy of the DOE PL training webinar/slides can be located within the TDHCA WAP Video library webpage under WAP Webinars or at the following link [DOE Priority List Webinar](#).

2. Is the DOE PL for all DOE units or just the DOE BIL units?

Once TDHCA grants permission to utilize the DOE PL, the applicable DOE PL will be eligible for use on all DOE weatherization units that meet each PL's criteria.

3. Do you recommend holding off on running DOE audits until the new DOE PL is approved for use?

TDHCA does not recommend halting production in any form or fashion. Please continue to utilize the energy audit to serve DOE clients.

4. Would a separate procurement be needed to add items such as mini-splits or could a revision be made to our existing procured price list?

All procurement requirements apply to any installed WAP measure(s). If a measure was not included in the original procurement process, you **cannot** amend your original procurement to add the additional measure(s). An additional procurement will be needed, however depending on the aggregate \$\$ threshold to be expended, there could potentially be multiple procurement methods utilized.

Policies and Procedures

1. Can only wood frame units utilize the Single-Family Site-Built Homes and Low-Rise Multifamily PL?

Yes that is correct. Units served utilizing the DOE PL must meet all the housing type specific criteria identified within the [TDHCA-Approved DOE Priority List Policies and Procedures](#).

2. Is an energy audit required for Single-Family Site-Built Cinder Block homes?

Yes. An energy audit would be required, as the unit would not meet the wood framed requirement of the [TDHCA-Approved DOE Priority List Policies and Procedures](#).

3. If a Subrecipient has HPG funds or other Non-Federal repair funds available, can the PL \$500 incidental repair measure (IRM) threshold for Single-Family Site Built and Manufactured Homes be exceeded during the weatherization process.

Yes, however the additional repair cost must be clearly invoiced to the HPG, Non-Federal, Etc. funding source **and** the installed IRMs must meet all WPN 19-5, Standard Work Specifications (SWS) and International Residential Code (IRC) requirements.

4. The Low-Rise Multifamily PL requires incidental repair measures (IRM) to not exceed 10% of the project's total Energy Conservation Measures (ECM) package. Is this capped % per unit, building, or complex?

Per Unit. The key factor that must be taken into consideration is the P&P states "as defined in WPN 19-5". [WPN 19-5](#) clarifies that IRM cost are specific to each unit within the **Package of Weatherization Measures** definition. The definition states, "The cost of all ECMs and their associated IRMs included in an audit or priority list and/or installed in a home."

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5. **If a unit requires a measure not listed on the DOE PL, would the subrecipient be required to run an energy audit?**
As directed within multiple areas of the [TDHCA WAP DOE - Approved PL Policies and Procedures](#), dwelling units that need measure(s) not included within the PL, require a site-specific energy audit (EA) ran in compliance with the most recently DOE-approved energy audit procedures.

Note –a potential work around would be to address and install the needed measure to meet DOE requirements by leveraging the unit with the LIHEAP PL, utility funding, or other local funding source. Please reach out to your assigned WAP trainer if additional clarification is needed.

Mandatory Measures

General

1. **Do all mandatory measures have to be addressed if the DOE PL is utilized?**

Yes, unless the “mandatory measure” is physically impossible to install or determined not applicable after proper assessment. [TDHCA WAP DOE - Approved PL Policies and Procedures](#) definition section and guidance state the following:

- Mandatory Measure: Any measure included on the regional priority list that is labeled as “mandatory” and is applicable to the project. These measures must be installed if any DOE funds are to be used on the project.
- If the DOE-approved PL is applied to a project using any DOE funds, then any measure listed as “mandatory” may only be skipped if it is physically impossible to install or properly assessed and determined to not be applicable, regardless of funding source used for the measure. Additionally, the Subgrantee must ensure photo and client file documentation is retained within the client file to support the Subgrantee’s actions for skipping the mandatory measure.

Air Infiltration/Duct Sealing

1. **Is the revised Blower Door and Duct Blaster Data Sheet utilized only for DOE units or will the form be utilized for LIHEAP units as well?**

TDHCA’s [Blower Door Duct and Blaster Data Sheet \(XLSX\)](#) – Revised August 2022, must be utilized for both DOE and LIHEAP units moving forward.

2. **When do we begin utilizing the new Blower Door and Duct Blaster Data Sheet?**

August 2022.

3. **If the initial BD reading is below the DOE PL target, do we still need to air seal?**

Air sealing would not be required if the unit is below the DOE PL target, however as a Best practice, TDHCA would recommend that subrecipients address any major areas of air leakage noted during the assessment.

4. **Can we move away from total duct leakage testing and focus only on leakage to outside?**

No. Duct Leakage to outside has historically been the primary focus from the compliance perspective as this is lost energy to the outside and the easiest to cost justify, However subrecipients need to keep in mind that Total Duct Leakage has its own importance. Total Duct leakage can often identify issues with the duct system’s delivery efficiency and identify how leaky the ducts are within the pressure boundary. Duct leakage within the pressure boundary can lead to areas not being properly heated/cooled, which can often create client comfort issues, moisture related concerns due to improper dehumidification, condensation, etc.

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Wall Insulation

1. **The wall insulation portion of the Single-Family Site-Built PL lists an option to insulate a partially insulated exterior wall. Can you give any guidance/recommendations for partially insulated cavities?**

Please note this measure is optional and at the discretion of the subrecipient. With that clarified, the SWS does not give specific guidance for this scenario, However it does state in the Dense Pack subsection [4.0202.1f Installation](#) to “Fill 100% of each cavity with insulation to the correct density that prevents air movement.” If the installation cannot be completed to meet all SWS requirements, subrecipients should not consider the optional measure.

Floor Insulation

1. **I noticed the PL Floor Insulation requirements for Single-Family Site-Built units required a complete ground moisture barrier to be installed over any exposed dirt floor. I cannot seem to locate the SWS guidance for the Ground Vapor Retarders. Could you please help me locate it?**

Guidance can be located within the SWS under the Health & Safety Moisture section [Subtopic 2.0202 Ground Vapor Retarders](#).

2. **The Single-Family Site-Built PL - Hot Climate Zone measure # 8 (Floor Insulation) states “Mandatory only for propane or oil fired primary heat.” Are there any options to install floor insulation for housing heated by electricity or natural gas?**

As directed within multiple areas of the [TDHCA WAP DOE - Approved PL Policies and Procedures](#), dwelling units that need measure(s) not included within the PL, require a site-specific energy audit (EA) ran in compliance with the most recently DOE-approved energy audit procedures.

Note – a potential work around would be to address and install the needed measure to meet DOE requirements by leveraging the unit with the LIHEAP PL, utility funding, or other local funding source.

Optional

General

1. **Is there an order to perform the optional measures or can they be addressed in any order after the mandatory measures have been addressed?**

Guidance from WPN 22-8 and its attachments do not specifically clarify the order optional measures are to be installed. As a best practice, the Department strongly recommends that subrecipients follow the order of the DOE PL for optional measure installation to avoid any potential questioning, as it appears the optional measures are reasonably listed in order of highest to lowest SIR when compared to historical energy audit Recommended Measures Reports.

Baseload Measures – Low Cost

1. **It appears that all low cost baseload measures such as faucet aerators, showerheads, and DWH tank/pipe insulation have a limit of \$250. Is the \$250 limit for all items or each item?**

As specified in the PL, this is a \$250 total per dwelling unit DOE WAP fund cap to address all low cost baseload measures and not for each item.

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Refrigerator Replacement

1. **So refrigerators can only be replaced if price is \$850 or less.**

Yes, that is correct. If the replacement threshold isn't feasible for your agency, your options to address the refrigerator would be to utilize another funding source or justify the replacement with the energy audit. Please remember, if utilizing the energy audit method, all DOE and/or LIHEAP measures would need to be cost justified by the energy audit to be eligible for installation.

Note – a potential work around would be to address and install the needed measure to meet DOE requirements by leveraging the unit with the LIHEAP PL, utility funding, or other local funding source.

2. **If the cost of fridge is greater than \$850, is this a measure we could blend DOE and LIHEAP funds per WPN 22-9?**

Subrecipients need to be cognizant when utilizing the new funding terminologies and make sure they fully understand the full meaning of each. Blending of funds is not a current TDHCA practice, as our LIHEAP funds are not included in the DOE WAP budget to maximize flexibility. With that clarified, the best practice to address the refrigerator would be to follow the guidance as described in the question above.

3. **Will the Refrigerator replacement calculator be updated to meet the DOE PL Requirements?**

No. The existing calculator already has the ability to calculate the Annual usage to support replacement criteria as shown below.

	Existing
Time metered	120.00
kWh Reading	0.12
Utility Costs	
Hours in a year	8,760.00
Annual Usage	525.60
Cost of Replacement	

Heating/Cooling

1. **Is the DOE PL criteria stating that we replace a window unit with the same size and do not take into consideration the room size?**

Unfortunately, due to the PL criteria, window A/C replacements are limited to the same size or smaller. With that clarified, factoring the room size into the equation is the right move; however the replacement costs for units that need a BTU increase would need to be covered by another funding source.

Note – a potential work around would be to address and install the needed measure to meet DOE requirements by leveraging the unit with the LIHEAP PL, utility funding, or other local funding source.

2. **Are there any limits on the number of window A/C units that can be replaced?**

No. The PL criteria does not list a maximum number of window A/C units that can be replaced.

3. **If a single family home qualifies for the Single-Family Site-Built PL and has a gas furnace less than 90% AFUE, a furnace can only be replaced as either an H&S measure or under the 4th option for section 11.**

Yes, as long as the furnace has a valid H&S justification to warrant replacement or was deemed a cost effective energy conservation measure by the energy audit.