



NYSERDA



Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

July 11, 2018

To all Participating Contractors and Program Partners,

NYSERDA has completed the first phase of revisions to the NYSERDA Materials and Installation Guide (MIG) for the NY Residential Existing Homes Programs. This phase included an

extensive review that drew on comments and ideas from a number of Participating Contractors, Program Implementers, and NYSERDA staff. The review led to the creation of a new version (Version 7/18) and can be found on the [Contractor Support website](#) in [Section 9 of the Contractor Resource Manual](#). This version will be go into effect for all projects submitted on or after August 10, 2018.



The next phase will take the MIG further. We have set a goal to create a version that is compatible with electronic media (such as smart phones) with links to various reference sources, training videos and other helpful tools. Additionally, we'd like to hear from contractors as to how the content best suits your needs, hear your suggestions for further revisions, and obtain your input into how best to format the document on electronic media.

In the near future we will be working with a partner to conduct a survey of all contractors, inviting your ideas. In the meantime, please review and implement the changes in Version 7/18.

The key strategies of the revision of Version 7/18 are as follows:

1. Many requirements have been rewritten in terms that would be considered "Standard Work Specifications" (SWS): this is a term used to describe the minimum standards to be met to achieve quality installations. The intent of SWS is to establish requirements, but whenever possible allow variations in technique to meet the requirements, based on a contractor's experience and preferences.

2. Methods described in the MIG that meet SWS requirements, but which may not be the only acceptable method, are defined as "Best Practices". Contractors may find them helpful or may employ alternative ways to meet SWS requirements.
3. Some topics were reorganized for better alignment. In some instances, repetitive sections were simplified or deleted.
4. In order to ensure consistency with other NYSERDA initiatives, such as the Air Source Heat Pump Program, requirements were aligned with the other program.
5. Revisions have been added as suggested by contractors, Program Implementers or NYSERDA staff.
6. The document was edited, and language clarified as needed.

We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed their ideas and suggestions.

Revisions are highlighted in yellow, for easy reference. Here is a list of key areas of focus:

1. Clarifications regarding knob and tube wiring, mold-like substances, and heat sources
2. A revised gas leak testing policy
3. Revised guidelines on air sealing
4. Revisions regarding treatment of recessed lights
5. Clarifications regarding treatment of attic accesses
6. Revision to attic platform requirements
7. Guidance for verifying adequate wall insulation
8. Clarification regarding basement and crawlspace insulation practices
9. Guidelines for applying spray foam insulation to mobile home bellies
10. Clarification regarding attic ventilation requirements
11. Revised language regarding water treatment with regard to boiler or water heater installations
12. Clarifications regarding condensate drainage
13. Updated requirements regarding grounding of CSST gas piping
14. Revised guidelines regarding condensing boilers
15. Revised air source heat pump guidelines
16. A revised spray foam appendix
17. Various additional minor revisions

To reach a section of the manual quickly, hover your mouse over the section in the table of contents, press control, and click. You can return to the top of the document by following the same procedure at any point marked "Top of the Document".

CLEARResult will be arranging a teleconference in the next few weeks, at which time the changes in Version 7/18 will be reviewed. Details will be provided in the near future.

Feel free to contact Kelvin Keraga if you have any questions by emailing Kelvin.Keraga@nyserda.ny.gov. And thanks for all of your hard work in the Programs.

About NYSERDA

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975. To learn more about NYSERDA's programs and funding opportunities, visit nyserdera.ny.gov or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), or [Instagram](#)



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NYSERDA, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203