

Best Practice – NEAT: Deactivating Library Measures

Date: Revised January 5, 2017

Subject: NEAT: Deactivating Library Measures

Problem or Question: Should we run NEAT with all measures eligible for installation or should we turn off (uncheck) some measures that we know we do not need in our own climate zone, like R-49 insulation?

Discussion: In general, it is best for the energy audit to consider all possible measures for the home. This can be accomplished by ensuring all measures are selected in the set-up library. However, there are some important exceptions based on the climate zones and specific agency objectives. Such exceptions should be vetted with TDHCA and approved by the Department program staff (with eventual review by DOE). It is sometimes necessary to tailor the measure to the climate zone because if you leave “excessive measures” in the set-up library, then the energy audit may recommend measures that cannot possibly be performed (like R-38 floor insulation in typical Texas construction). Furthermore, these measures may adversely impact other measures (cause them to not be recommended) by lowering their SIR. These exceptions would include a cap on the R-value for attic and floor insulation. For example, R49 in the attic and R-30 for the floor, in nearly all of Texas, is excessive insulation for Texan climate zones and it is best to pre-empt NEAT from advocating these excessive measures. The screen shot below from a sample set-up library illustrates our attic R-49 and floor R-30/38 example. Note that the boxes for R-49 attic insulation are unchecked and will not be considered. The boxes for R-38 and R-30 floor insulation are also unchecked for this particular agency and will not be considered. This set-up library configuration should be the same across the entire agency.

The screenshot shows the 'SETUP LIBRARY' window for 'Sample Setup Library'. It features a table with columns for Measure #, Measure Type, Measure Name, Active status, Default Contractor, Default Cost Center, Life (yr), and Costs. The 'Active' column contains checkboxes, with R-49 attic insulation, R-30 floor insulation, and R-38 floor insulation being unchecked. The interface also includes navigation controls, a record count of 5 of 43, and buttons for 'VIEW', 'Select All', 'UnSelect All', 'Invert Select', and 'All Library Measure Costs'.

#	Measure Type	Measure Name	Active	Default Contractor	Default Cost Center	Life (yr)	Costs
1	Building Insulation	Attic insulation R11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
2	Building Insulation	Attic insulation R19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
3	Building Insulation	Attic insulation R30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
4	Building Insulation	Attic insulation R38	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
5	Building Insulation	Attic insulation R49	<input type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
6	Building Insulation	Fill ceiling cavity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
7	Building Insulation	Sillbox insulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
8	Building Insulation	Foundation wall insulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
9	Building Insulation	Floor insulation R11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
10	Building Insulation	Floor insulation R19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
11	Building Insulation	Floor insulation R30	<input type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
12	Building Insulation	Floor insulation R38	<input type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs
13	Building Insulation	Wall insulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			20	Costs

Additionally, these measures should not be left unchecked just because your agency or contractor does not want to perform them. Instead, agencies and contractors should seek training and technical

assistance from TDHCA. For example, if your agency does not perform floor insulation, then you should coordinate with TDHCA to receive training on this measure's installation procedures.

Procedures for vetting those measures an agency *should not or cannot* install:

1. Agency determines what measures they cannot or should not have eligible for installation. This should be done in consultation with Department program staff.
2. A copy of the agency's "Measures Not Considered" list and MDB setup library & supply list library should be sent to Department program staff for approval.
3. Department program staff issues temporary approval, corrects, or disapproves the list.
4. The agency unchecks these measures in their energy audit Setup library and ensures uniformity among all agency or contracted auditors.
5. Department program staff will compile all the "Measures Not Considered" from Subrecipients and send the consolidated list to DOE for review.
6. TDHCA will issue final approval for each agency's "Measures Not Considered" list and monitor for compliance.