



ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Home Efficiency Income-Qualified

Residential Fuel Distribution System Inspection Procedure

Energy Efficiency Residential Fuel Distribution System Assessment Procedure

The following procedure was developed for Fuel Distribution System Inspections by Auditors assessing residential homes in association with the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program. These assessments are conducted per BPI (Building Performance Institute) guidelines except as amended here. The AIC Energy Efficiency department, in partnership with AIC operations leadership, developed the procedure in response to safety and operational concerns. Notation: The term Auditor refers to both Program Allies and Program Staff that are BPI certified.

1. The Auditor shall sample the indoor ambient air, upon entering the home, in at least one location per floor of occupied space, using both the sense of smell and Combustible Gas Detection (CGD) equipment;
2. Conduct testing for potential gas leakage on the customer's fuel distribution system (i.e. gas piping) at connections of natural gas piping starting after the union on the right side of the Ameren Illinois gas meter (see Image 1, below);
3. When the ambient air combustible fuel gas levels exceed 10% of the lower explosive limit, or upon discovery of a potential leak at a gas piping connection, the Auditor shall cease all further activity and immediately inform the homeowner/occupants that there is potentially a gas leak (If a potential leak is identified on gas piping, please stop all further activity immediately, *do not attempt to identify additional gas leaks*);
4. Request that the homeowner/occupants leave the building immediately, and exit the building with them, without using a phone or other electrical device while in the home;
5. From outside of the home, the Auditor will call the Ameren Illinois Call Center at **800.755.5000**, report the possibility of a gas leak at the home, and provide the service representative with the customer's immediate contact information (e.g. cell phone number, address or phone number of neighbor where customer intends to wait during investigation by AIC gas operations);
6. One call to the Ameren Illinois Call Center per location is preferred. Multiple potential leak calls from the same address may result in resources being unnecessarily routed;
7. The Auditor will remain on-site, but outside of the building, until qualified AIC gas operations personnel arrive and render the home safe to re-enter.
8. When the ambient air combustible fuel gas levels are **at 0.1% or greater** and less than 10% of the lower explosive limit and there are no potential gas leaks identified the Auditor will call the Ameren Illinois Call Center and report the possibility of a gas leak in the residence and follow steps 4 through 7, above.



Image 1

Addendum

- a. The Ameren Illinois Call Center has recently implemented a new process when handling a call due to a blowing gas situation. The intent of this new process is to determine whether or not there is a blowing gas situation which is the direct result of digging, excavation, boring, etc. so that AIC gas operations can dispatch two people to the scene for a more effective response when the likelihood for migrating gas is greater. Energy Efficiency Auditors may have noticed that the Ameren Illinois Call Center is asking two additional questions at the beginning of the call to determine whether or not a two person response is necessary. When they call to report a potential leak, please advise them to apply the following definition when they answer the question "is there blowing gas?": "Blowing Gas is when natural gas is forcefully escaping through an opening in a pipe or fitting that has been **broken, cracked or damaged.**" For instance, if an Auditor smells gas at the meter and hears the normal operation of the meter and regulator, the blowing gas question should be answered "no". However, in the unlikely event that an Auditor comes across a gas service that has been cut and is blowing due to excavation or boring, they should answer "yes".
- b. As of November 2017, the Contact Center is no longer asking if the odor is faint or strong, Ameren Illinois Corporation is evacuating on all inside odor complaints. Going forward, if any Program Staff or Program Ally Staff on site while representing the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program notices an odor of gas or picks up an indication on their instrument, they should be instructing the customer to leave the premise and the Auditor should leave as well until Ameren personnel arrive and determine the severity of the leak.
- c. The Auditor should only be checking the fittings of the customers piping, not the Ameren Illinois piping side of the meter.