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2006 Wrap-Up



At a glance, 2006 proved to be a productive year, beginning with the creation, unveiling and launch of the Department of Buildings' [2006-2009 Strategic Plan](#) (2,746 kb-pdf), the second phase of [Commissioner Lancaster's](#) blueprint for transforming the agency into an accountable, efficient and effective municipal building organization. The 2006-2009 Strategic Plan reviews the achievements of the past four years and lays out the roadmap for the years leading up to 2009. View the [press release](#) for more information.

We Made It Easier

This year we have taken a number of strides to improve our services. Despite receiving a record high of 73,188 applications filed in [Fiscal Year 2006](#), the Department reached record productivity in the following areas:

- Completed a record high 209,066 construction inspections
- Decreased average wait time for plan exam appointments by 70%
- Issued and renewed a record high 13,278 licenses

eFiling Electrical Applications

Introduced in 2006, [eFiling](#) is the fastest and easiest way to submit electrical applications. eFiling enables a registered electrician to file electrical permit applications via the Internet, pay by credit card and immediately print the permit from their computer. Over 12,000 electrical permit applications were filed using eFiling this year. In addition, eFiling was recognized as the "[Best Application Serving the Public](#)" at the annual New York City Technology Forum. View the [photos](#) and the [press release](#) from the event.

New Easy-to-Use Permit Search Online



Also launched in 2006, [My Community](#), a new user-friendly search feature, allows users to more easily search for new building permits, major alterations and full demolitions permitted in various community boards. Visit My Community and see how easy it is to obtain lists of certain permits issued in your neighborhood!

Enhanced Plan Examination Notification System (PENS)

[PENS](#), an automated system for scheduling plan examination appointments, was enhanced this year to allow specific date and time requests for appointments. In line with the Commissioner's continuing efforts to improve customer service, PENS has decreased the wait time for an appointment by 70% since 2005.

User-Friendly [Guides and Publications](#)

Whether you are a homeowner, licensed professional or researcher, there are a number of Guides and Publications available to walk you through our processes. In 2006, the following materials were published:

- [ECB Violation Reference Guide](#): A two-part user guide to help provide a better understanding of ECB violations and how to resolve them.
- [Third Edition of the Required Items Guide](#): A guide that indicates what requirements apply to a specific job.
- ["How to" Guides](#): This year the Department published 13 "How to" Guides to serve as checklists for steps needed to become a NYC-licensed tradesperson.
- **Fact Sheets**: The Department has published a number of fact sheets to document our procedures and help you understand our rules and regulations.
 - [Hanging Scaffolds Application Procedures](#)
 - [Temporary Certificates of Approval](#) (65 kb-pdf)
 - [Industrial Rope Access Application](#)
 - [Open Alterations](#) (46 kb-pdf)
 - [Minor Variations](#) (33kb-pdf)
 - [Temporary and Final Certificates of Occupancy](#)

Enhanced BISWeb



[BISWeb](#), a database of over 950,000 properties located throughout the five boroughs, has helped Buildings become more transparent and efficient. The following are some of the enhancements made this year:

- [Stop Work Orders Now Flagged in BISWeb](#) (197 kb-pdf): Active Stop Work Orders (SWOs) are now prominently displayed in BIS.
- [Letters of No Objection Available Online](#) (95 kb-pdf): BISWeb now indicates whether a Letter of No Objection (LNO) has been approved or denied.
- [Reinstatement Fees Reflected in BISWeb](#) (44 kb-pdf): Reinstatement fees now recorded in the payment history of all jobs in BIS.
- [New BISWeb Generated Initial Place of Assembly Permit](#) (91 kb-pdf): Upon successful completion of the new PA-1 form, an initial PA permit can be immediately printed from BISWeb.

Dedicated to Safety



This year the Department of Buildings launched a [safety campaign](#) to reinforce existing safety rules and regulations. The two-month campaign kicked off with a mass mailing to general contractors and licensed riggers and is part of a larger ongoing effort to increase outreach and enforcement efforts to ensure compliant development and safe building practices. Below are some examples that demonstrate our ongoing dedication to safety throughout 2006.

- On November 2nd, the Department announced the creation of a Scaffold Worker Safety Task Force. The Task Force, chaired by Commissioner Lancaster, will evaluate policy and legislative reforms. Members include New York City, State, and Federal government officials, representatives from community-based organizations, construction industry trade organizations and buildings owners. For more information on the Task Force, read the [press release](#) and the [public service announcement](#) about worker safety from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.
- [Notification Required For All Earthwork - Rule 52](#) (52 kb-pdf): The Department of Buildings now requires notification 24 to 48 hours before any excavation/earthwork within property lines can begin. The advance notification allows the Department to monitor excavation/earthwork and to help ensure that the work is being conducted safely and in compliance with the Building Code regulations.
- [New Supported Scaffold Regulations - Local Law 52 of 2005](#) (26 kb-pdf): The new supported scaffold law enhances the scaffold safety training requirements for those who use, erect and maintain, dismantle, repair or modify a supported scaffold. In addition, LL 52/2005, requires a permit for all supported scaffolds 40 feet or higher.
- [Laminated Wood I-Beam Notification](#) (30 kb-pdf): To help ensure the safety of first responders, the Buildings Department and the New York City Fire Department are using technology to electronically notify firefighters of the use of Laminated Wood I-Beams in buildings.

- [Photoluminescent Marking & Sign Installation - Local Law 26 of 2004](#) (171 kb-pdf): All high-rise (equal to or above 75 feet in height), E-class occupancy group (office) buildings are required to install photoluminescent exit path markings in emergency exit stairwells. These markings and signs are in addition to, and not in place of, existing requirements relating to exit signs.
- New Rule for Impact Resistant Stair and Elevator Enclosures: [Local Law 26 of 2004](#) (171 kb-pdf) includes new regulations for impact resistant stair and elevator enclosures in high-rise office buildings. [Rule 32](#) (46 kb-pdf) became effective September 4, 2006 and established the technical standards for the installation these enclosures.
- New Cranes and Derricks [Reference Standard 19-2](#) (329 kb-pdf): In the Fall, Reference Standard 19-2 went into effect updating requirements for rope inspection and replacement, safety devices and minimum operation standards to meet current national standards. The new regulations also include guidelines for the required notification and use of personnel hoisting equipment.

Reminder

Upcoming Holidays



The Department of Buildings will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2006, and Monday, January 1, 2007. Visit us online for a complete listing of the Department's [holiday schedule for 2007](#).

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

Upcoming Deadlines

- [Local Law 62/91 Annual Boiler Inspection](#) Deadline - January 2, 2007
- [Local Law 11/98 Facade Inspection](#) Deadline - February 21, 2007

Buildings News on Holiday Leave

Buildings News will be on hiatus from December 25, 2006 to January 3, 2007. We will return to regular weekly publication on January 10, 2007. For the latest updates about the Buildings Department, please visit our website at www.nyc.gov/buildings.

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