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What's New

High Rise Initiative Pilot Program in Manhattan



The Department of Buildings has formed a new High Rise Team of architects, engineers and inspectors dedicated to streamlining the review, approval, and signoff process of all high rise projects in Manhattan. Through this pilot program, the Department will partner with applicants of complex high rise construction projects, providing the full benefit of plan examination and inspection. View the [fact sheet](#) for more information.

Model Code Updates



The [Model Code Team](#) continues to complete draft chapters of the proposed construction codes as they prepare the final bill for submittal to the City Council this month. Visit our website to see the completed draft [chapters and appendices](#). Questions? Email the Model Code Team at nycmodelcodeprogram@buildings.nyc.gov

Buildings Around Town

Commissioner Presents to Buildings Officials in Rome, Italy

On March 30, 2007, Buildings Commissioner [Patricia J. Lancaster](#), FAIA and First Deputy Commissioner [Robert LiMandri](#) spoke to building officials from around the world about best practices employed at the Department of Buildings to streamline building and urban planning regulations in New York City. The presentation was part of a conference in Rome, Italy - one of New York City's ten sister cities. At the international meeting, Commissioner Lancaster spoke about initiatives implemented, including the creation of [BISWeb](#) and [eFiling](#). First Deputy Commissioner LiMandri spoke to the audience about the second phase of the [Strategic Plan](#)

(2,746 kb-pdf). View the [press release](#) and [photo](#) from the conference.

Buildings Presents at Annual Photoluminescent Safety Association

When Mayor Bloomberg signed [Local Law 26 of 2004](#) (171 kb-pdf), which mandated safety upgrades to high rise office buildings, New York City became the first major city in the country to require the installation of photoluminescent (glow-in-the-dark) exit markings on the stairs. On March 22, 2007, at the Photoluminescent Safety Association's annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, Buildings' Executive Architect James P. Colgate made a [presentation](#) (2,256 kb-pdf) outlining the law's requirements. In addition, the Canadian government's National Research Council presented its preliminary findings of its study of New York City's photoluminescent standards, finding that the required markings are effective in evacuating office populations when electrical lighting fails. View a [photo](#) from the conference.

Training & Workshops

Queens AIA Monthly Meeting



On Tuesday, April 10, 2007, First Deputy Commissioner [Robert LiMandri](#), and Deputy Commissioners [Fatma Amer](#) and [Phyllis Arnold](#)

will be featured at a round table discussion at the Queens American Institute of Architects monthly dinner. The discussion will include controlled inspections and the new [NYC Construction Codes](#). Seating is limited, so reserve your seats today. View the [flyer](#) (64 kb-pdf) for more information.

Reminders

Job Fair for Architects and Engineers



Registered Architects and Professional Engineers are invited to join us at our next [Job Fair](#) (53 kb-pdf) on:

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Manhattan, 280 Broadway, 6th Floor

Join us to learn more about the [career opportunities](#) and [benefits](#) available at the Buildings Department. Not able to attend? Email your resume to recruit@buildings.nyc.gov.

After-Hour Work Variances For Holiday Weekends

As a reminder, all requests for After-Hour Work Variance Permits to be issued for holiday weekends must be submitted in writing to the [Borough Commissioner's Office](#). Additionally, letters requesting a variance need to be submitted by the owner's representative and demonstrate an urgent need.

Did You Know?

Did you know that on April 2, 2007, the Environmental Control Board (ECB) launched a newly expanded website? The ECB is an administrative tribunal that hears cases involving violations of New York City's quality-of-life laws including those issued by the [Department of Buildings](#). The new site provides detailed information on; [understanding](#) and [responding](#) to ECB violations, [legal resources](#), [FAQ's](#) and much more. Visit the website at www.nyc.gov/ecb for more information on ECB violations.

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