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What's New

Lightweight Materials Pilot Launch



On November 20, 2007, Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta launched the Lightweight Materials Pilot Program in Staten Island. The new program partners Buildings inspectors and engineers with Fire Department firefighters to conduct joint inspections of construction sites in Staten Island where lightweight construction materials are being used to erect new

buildings or to renovate existing buildings. To learn more about this new program, view the [press release](#).

B-SCAN Reaches Milestone

Making It Easier



On November 21, 2007, Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster joined Department staff to celebrate a technological milestone by scanning the 100,000th document into the Buildings Scan and Capture Application Network ([B-SCAN](#)), an electronic document management system that makes most paper documents associated with construction permit applications immediately available online for public access. As

a component of the Department's [2006-2009 Strategic Plan](#) (2,746 kb-pdf), B-SCAN was implemented on a borough-by-borough basis over the past six months. To learn more, view the [press release](#) and [photos](#) from the event.

New Sidewalk Shed Safety Statement

Dedicated to Safety

To protect public safety, the Buildings Department recently sent [letters](#) (23 kb-pdf) to construction shed companies and building owners with sidewalk sheds installed prior to July 1, 2007 reminding them that sheds must have adequate lighting. Sidewalk sheds that do not comply with the [Building Code](#) and Electrical Code or do not have an associated electrical permit must be inspected by a licensed electrician. Shed companies and building owners must also submit a [Sidewalk Shed Safety Statement](#) (10 kb-pdf) on the Licensed Electrician's company letterhead indicating the shed does not pose a hazard. This must be submitted to the Buildings Department [Electrical Unit](#) by December 31, 2007.

Street Obstruction Bonds No Longer Required

Information You Need To Know

To simplify our permitting process, the Buildings Department now no longer requires permit applicants to provide Street Obstruction Bonds.

Temporary Heat in High Rise Buildings

Dedicated to Safety

To provide temporary heat in a high rise building under construction during heat season (October 1st through May 31st), plumbing contractors may install salamanders connected to cooking gas risers or may use the building's boiler. For more information about providing temporary heat, view the [fact sheet](#) (38 kb-pdf). To learn more about how to stay warm and safe during winter, view our tips for [winterizing buildings](#) and installing [carbon monoxide detectors](#).

Buildings Around Town

NYSSPE/BOMA Meeting

On Monday, November 26, 2007, Chief Sustainability Officer Deborah Taylor R.A., and Boiler Unit Director Robert Daly, P.E., attended a meeting hosted by the [NYS Society of Professional Engineers](#) and [Building Owners and Managers Association of New York](#) to discuss the NYC Energy Codes. At the meeting, Taylor delivered a [presentation](#) (582 kb-pdf) on the new Buildings Department procedures required to demonstrate compliance with New York State's Energy Conservation Construction Code. Visit our website to learn more about the [ECCCNYS](#).

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Buildings Department publishes how-to brochures for professionals and homeowners through its [Building Knowledge Series](#)? Accessible via the Department's website, the series includes brochures for a variety of issues, such as [tips for homebuyers](#) (270 kb-pdf) and [resolving illegal conversions](#) (429 kb-pdf).

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