

— This is the NYC.gov News You Requested For: "Department of Buildings News"

## 2007 Year in Review



Looking back, 2007 marked a historic year for the Buildings Department. We concluded our overhaul of the 1968 Building Code, enacted the [New NYC Construction Codes](#) and launched our [Special Enforcement Plan](#) to transform Buildings into a proactive enforcement agency. We also received the [2007 Sheldon Oliensis Ethics in City Government](#)

[Award](#) from the Conflicts of Interest Board, raised the bar for construction safety, launched new worker outreach initiatives and encouraged green building. Below are some of our achievements from 2007 -- and stay tuned for new initiatives in 2008!

How do you think we performed in 2007? Email your suggestions and comments to [operationsredesign@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:operationsredesign@buildings.nyc.gov).

### New NYC Construction Codes Enacted



The [New NYC Construction Codes](#), signed into law July 3, 2007 by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, represent the first major overhaul of the Building Code since 1968 and incorporate the expertise and recommendations from 400 professionals who volunteered over 300,000 hours of their time. The New Codes, which include national standards and promote safety, efficiency and sustainability, are tied to a three-year revision cycle ensuring the building code will not become outdated again. Effective July 1, 2008, professionals will have the option to use

either the New NYC Construction Codes or the 1968 Building Code until July 1, 2009 when the New Codes will be mandated for all new construction. Administrative provisions, such as the new violation classification, special inspections and construction safety provisions, will be mandated on July 1, 2008. View the Mayor's Office [press release](#) and [photos](#) from the passage of the New NYC Construction Codes. View the [press release](#) for more information about our training initiative and visit the [NYC Construction Codes](#) section of our website.

## Special Enforcement Plan Launched



In July 2007, we launched our [Special Enforcement Plan](#) to raise the bar for construction standards citywide and to identify repeat offenders and hold them accountable. In the first six months of the plan, three new units were created: the Special Enforcement Team; Professional Certification Review and Audits Team; and the Excavations Inspections and Audits Team. By focusing

enforcement teams on repeat offenders, expanding our oversight of the professional certification program, conducting more proactive inspections, and substantially increasing fines and penalties, this plan highlights our transition into a proactive enforcement agency. View the [press release](#) and October [progress report](#) (28 kb-pdf) to learn more about the Enforcement Plan and our new enforcement teams.

## COIB Ethics in City Government Award



In recognition of our continued efforts to infuse integrity, accountability and efficiency into our operations, the [Conflicts of Interest Board](#) awarded the Department the [2007 Sheldon Oliensis Ethics in City Government Award](#) in May. Since 2002, we have worked to promote ethical behavior and integrity at the Department, forming a close partnership with the [Department of](#)

[Investigation](#), launching a [Code of Conduct](#), introducing new technology, and in November, unveiling [new uniforms](#) for inspectorial staff and field responders. View the [press release](#) for more information about this award and our integrity efforts in 2007.

## ***We Raised the Bar for Safety Standards***

### **2007 Safety Report Card**

This year marked a decline in overall construction-related fatalities, even as construction activity continued at a sustained pace. This [safety report card](#) (4,643 kb-pdf), announced at the 2007 Building Trades Employers' Association Safety Conference, provided a citywide overview of construction accident, injury and fatality data. These statistics are collected and analyzed to identify trends and to work with the industry to improve construction safety for workers and the public. View the [press release](#) for more information on safety statistics for 2007.

### **Worked to Improve Scaffold Safety**

During the past year, we've worked to improve the safety of scaffold workers through our participation in the [Suspended Scaffold Worker Safety Task Force](#) and by adopting the Task Force's [recommendations](#) in the [Suspended Scaffolds Report](#) (772 kb-pdf). In November 2006, we began conducting outreach events at worker centers around the City with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to discuss with workers steps they can take to stay safe on the job.

In May, we announced an [alliance](#) with [OSHA](#) to work cooperatively to address construction hazards throughout New York City. View the August [progress report](#) (36 kb-pdf) on the steps

taken to implement the Task Force recommendations.

## **Adopted Construction Superintendent Rule**

As part of [Construction Safety Week 2007](#), Commissioner Lancaster announced our new [Construction Superintendent Rule](#). This rule will further ensure that construction sites are supervised by qualified individuals with the appropriate knowledge of construction and risk prevention. Beginning January 2, 2008, all permit applications for New Buildings and Demolitions of buildings up to and including 14 stories will require a registered Construction Superintendent to be listed on the [new PW-2 form](#) (152 kb-pdf). This requirement will apply to all one-, two- and three-family homes beginning July 5, 2008.

See the [fact sheet](#) (41 kb-pdf) for registration requirements and download the [Construction Superintendent Registration application \(LIC-3\)](#) and [Work History form \(LIC-4\)](#) from our website.

## **Launched Low Rise Site Safety Program**

In April, we launched our new [Low Rise Site Safety Program](#) to enhance site safety for new low rise buildings. Under this program, the [Buildings Enforcement Safety Team](#) proactively inspects all new buildings between seven- to 14-story being constructed in New York City. View our Construction Superintendent [fact sheet](#) (41 kb-pdf) for more information about the new registration requirement for buildings 14 stories and below.

## **Introduced the High Rise Team**

This year also marked the formation of our new [High Rise Team](#), which is dedicated to streamlining the review, approval and signoff process of all buildings 15 stories and higher in Manhattan. Early in the review process, the Department partners with applicants of complex high rise construction projects to address complex code and zoning issues common to high rise projects. To learn more about this program, view our High Rise Initiative [memo](#).

## ***2007 Enforcement Initiatives***

---

### **Enforcement Campaign Against Illegal Advertising**

In January 2007, we launched our [enforcement campaign](#) to combat illegal advertising on sidewalk sheds. Through intensive proactive inspections, the Department located, photographed and recorded illegal advertising signs on sidewalk sheds. Building upon this effort, in July 2007, we expanded this [campaign](#) to illegal advertising on building walls. Following our warning letter sent to property owners with illegal signs, 20% of this illegal advertising was removed. Subsequent enforcement action has resulted in over 1,400 violations issued and 30% of the illegal signs removed.

### **Created Stop Work Order Patrol and Increased Fines**

In 2007, we created a [citywide Stop Work Order Patrol](#), which partners Department of Finance deputy sheriffs with Buildings inspectors to proactively monitor construction sites with active Stop Work Orders and issue follow-up violations with escalated civil penalties if work continues while the order is in effect. Since the program's launch, the Stop Work Order Patrol has conducted more than 3,816 unannounced inspections. The [penalties](#) associated with "Work

Against a Stop Work Order" violation were also increased in 2007, with the fine for a first-offense violation starting at \$2,000.

## Created Zoning Review Program

In November 2007, as part of our [Special Enforcement Plan](#), we launched our Zoning Review Program in Manhattan, making this program operational in all five boroughs. Through this program, all professionally certified New Building and Alteration Type-1 permit applications are reviewed for commonly-abused or misused zoning regulations. View the Zoning Review [service announcement](#) (50 kb-pdf) for more information.

## Tightened Professional Certification

In August 2007, we created our [Professional Certification Review and Audits Team](#) under the Special Enforcement Plan. This team of inspectors, plan examiners and support staff investigates zoning and code compliance by inspecting professionally-certified jobs and auditing professionally-certified applications. This team complements recent legislation passed at both the city and state level that expanded Buildings' oversight of the professional certification program.

In February, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg signed two bills, Intro 308-A ([Local Law 3 of 2007](#)) and Intro 309-A ([Local Law 4 of 2007](#)), that address professional engineers and registered architects who abuse their privilege to professionally certify their construction plans comply with the Code and zoning requirements. Additionally, Governor Spitzer signed into law [Assembly Bill #7746](#), also known as the "False Filing Law," which allows the Buildings Commissioner to refuse to accept documents from individuals found to have submitted fraudulent filings after due process.



## *We Encouraged Green Building*

### Established New Energy Code Requirements

To create a cleaner and more energy-efficient New York, we began requiring all New Building and Alteration Type-1 applications to demonstrate compliance with the [Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State](#). In addition to the professional statement of compliance that was already required, applicants must also provide an Energy Analysis and demonstrate in the drawing set how the information outlined in the Energy Analysis will be used. To learn more about these green requirements, view our energy [guidelines](#).

### Introduced Safety Standards for Microturbines

In December, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced [new regulations](#) (68 kb-pdf) for the installation of microturbine systems in residential and commercial buildings. New York City is now the first US city to establish safety standards for the use of microturbines in these building types. These new standards enable building owners to take advantage of microturbine

technology and will help the City achieve its energy efficiency goals outlined in the Mayor's [PlaNYC](#). To learn more, view the [press release](#).

## ***We Made It Easier For You***

---

### **Award-Winning B-SCAN System Implemented**



In 2007, we implemented the Buildings Scan and Capture Application Network ([B-SCAN](#)) system citywide. This electronic processing system enables the online retrieval of most documents associated with New Building and Alteration applications and allows Buildings staff to manage construction permit applications

electronically. In November, B-SCAN was named the City's Best Application Serving the Public by the [NYC Excellence in Technology Awards Program](#), and the Buildings Department [celebrated its 100,000th document](#) scanned and uploaded to our Buildings Information System ([BIS](#)), accessible via our website. View [photos](#) from the celebration.

### ***eFiling* Reached All Time High in 2007**

In 2007, we reached an [all-time high of electrical permit applications](#) filed online. In August, more than 82% of all applications for electrical permits were filed electronically using the Department's [e-Filing system](#). Initially launched in 2006, e-Filing's [second phase](#) allows licensed electricians who have registered with the Department to apply for electrical permits online. In 2008, we'll expand e-Filing to include electronic filing of all job applications. While applicants will still visit the Department to file architectural documents, e-Filing's third phase will reduce the overall number of necessary visits.

LICENSE SEARCH ▶

### **Added to BISWeb**

This year we made it easier for you to research skilled trade licensees, general contractors and construction superintendents on our website. Launched in May 2007, our [License Search](#) feature enables users to learn the number, status and expiration date of an individual's license. Be a knowledgeable consumer and know who you're hiring.

## ***Reminders***

---

### **Upcoming Holidays**



The Buildings Department will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, 2007 and Tuesday, January 1, 2008. Visit us online for a complete listing of the Department's [2008 Holiday Schedule](#).

## ***Buildings News on Holiday Leave***

***[Buildings News](#)*** will be on a holiday hiatus until January 9, 2008. For the latest updates about the Buildings Department, please visit our website at [www.nyc.gov/buildings](http://www.nyc.gov/buildings). See you in 2008!

---

***Visit our [Homepage](#) for more information on any of these announcements.***

***[Send your comments & suggestions on Buildings News](#)***

To unsubscribe please go to this link:

<https://www.nyc.gov/portal/signin.jsp>

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE!