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What's New

Buildings Department Announces Scaffold Safety Initiative



On February 20, Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster launched a 30-day citywide crackdown on unsafe supported scaffolds and sidewalk sheds - more than 1,500 of which will be inspected. The inspections are the first step in the Department's new Safety Analysis and Field Evaluation (SAFE) Scaffold & Shed Initiative, a comprehensive package of increased enforcement, operational and regulatory initiatives, and design improvements to increase scaffold and sidewalk shed safety.

For more information, view the [press release](#) and a [regulatory notice](#) (60 kb-pdf) Commissioner Lancaster re-issued to remind design professionals, contractors, and scaffold companies of the technical requirements that they must follow to ensure the safety of supported scaffolds and sidewalk sheds.

Buildings Department Expands Special Enforcement Plan



On February 13, Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster launched Phase II of the Department's [Special Enforcement Plan](#) to raise the bar for construction standards citywide. Additional enforcement resources are being allocated to crack down on illegal after-hours construction, unsafe interior demolitions, and low-rise site safety - together building upon the new enforcement and operational tactics

implemented during [Phase I](#). Phase II includes a \$1 million investment that dedicates 21 staff lines to three new enforcement teams and one new research group: the After-Hours Inspection Team, the Interior Demolitions Team, the Low-Rise Site Safety Team, and the Professional Certification Qualifications Group. To learn more, view the [press release](#) and the most recent Phase I [progress report](#) (28 kb-pdf).

Fully-Expanded eFiling Now Available

Making It Easier



We've now fully launched our [expanded eFiling system](#) to include construction permit application filings. This expanded system enables applicants to use eFiling and its electronic interview-style process to prepare the new [PW-1 Form](#) online for initial and subsequent filings. We've already improved upon our new PW-1 Form, which had plot maps as page five. Thanks to your input, we've now made the plot map a separate form to be completed outside of the eFiling process.

To file a plot map, download [Form PD-1](#). For more information about [eFiling](#) and the new PW-1 Form, view the eFiling [Registration Quick Guide](#) (312 kb-pdf) and the [PW-1 User Guide](#).

Wanted! Architects and Engineers

Information You Need To Know



On March 4 and 18, the Buildings Department will host a job fair for architects and engineers in Manhattan at 280 Broadway in the 6th Floor Training Room from 12pm to 3pm. Interested in employment at the Buildings Department? View our job fair [schedule](#) (563 kb-pdf) or visit our website for more [Career Opportunities](#).

New Safety Provision for Animated Signs

Dedicated to Safety



The [New NYC Construction Codes](#) include a new safety provision for animated signs. Appendix H (Section [BC-H108](#)) of the 2008 Building Code requires animated devices on outdoor signs be equipped with fail-safe provisions to prevent moving parts from falling.

New NYC Construction Codes Publication

Information You Need To Know

The International Code Council will be publishing the [New NYC Construction Codes](#). Until the ICC's publication is finalized and available, we have provided easy access to the New Codes in our website's [NYC Construction Codes](#) section. This section includes important information about the New Codes including [Code Compass Fact Sheets](#) and [FAQs](#).

Coming Soon: PENS Enhancement

Making It Easier

To make it easier and more efficient to do business with us, on April 1 we're enhancing our [Plan Examination Notification System](#) (PENS) to make scheduling plan exam appointments more efficient and even quicker through 311. Registered professionals and filing representatives who would like to take advantage of this enhancement must provide a PIN number and e-mail address to the Buildings Department by March 3, 2008 and can do so by filling out the [PENS Submission form](#) (31 kb-pdf).

This enhancement was originally scheduled for March 25, but has been pushed back to April 1 to allow more time to provide this information to the Department. To

learn more, please view an informational [letter](#) (31 kb-pdf) explaining this enhancement.

Training & Workshops

New Codes Training at the Javits Center



The Buildings Department is hosting a comprehensive training session on the [New NYC Construction Codes](#) for the public and industry on Friday, February 29. This session will be held at the [Jacob K. Javits Convention Center](#) in Manhattan. At the event, our technical team will focus on the new [2008 Building Code](#) and new administrative procedures under the New Codes.

View the [flyer](#) to learn how to sign up today. [Registration](#) is required, and seating is limited.

Suspended Scaffold Seminars



To raise the professional level of care and reinforce safety requirements, our [Scaffold Safety Team](#) conducts scaffold safety seminars every Monday and Friday to address the [rules and regulations](#) for special riggers. View the [flyer](#) (85 kb-pdf) for more information on how to attend one of these seminars.

Buildings Around Town

Queens AIA Excavation Seminar

On March 11, experts from the Buildings Department's Forensic Engineering Unit will lead a discussion on safe excavation practices at the American Institute of Architects Queens Chapter's monthly meeting. Registration is required and seating is limited. View the [flyer](#) (534 kb-pdf) for more information.

NYSA Technical Forum

On January 24, Chief Sustainability Officer Deborah Taylor, RA, LEED AP, and Senior Architect John Lee, RA, delivered a presentation on the New NYC Construction Codes at the [New York Society of Architects'](#) 28th Technical Forum. The event was the third in a series of forums focusing on the differences between the 1968 Building Code and the New NYC Construction Codes. Visit the [NYC Construction Codes](#) section of our website to view presentations from prior [training sessions](#).

Reminder

Half-Day Office Closure on February 29th

Information You Need To Know

On Friday, February 29, the Buildings Department will be closed until 1:30pm for an agencywide strategic meeting. Customer service will be open from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

New Customer Service Call Center for Boiler Questions

Making It Easier

As part of our ongoing effort to improve our service, we've launched a customer service call center dedicated to annual boiler filing and violation questions. View the [service announcement](#) (26 kb-pdf) for more information.

New Energy Code Requirements

Information You Need To Know

The Buildings Department extended the Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State ([ECCCNYS](#)) energy analysis filing requirement to all Alteration 2 and Alteration 3 applications as applicable to ECCCNYS. View the [service announcement](#) (37 kb-pdf) for more information.

Did You Know?

Did you know that with our fully-expanded [eFiling system](#), only information that is officially filed and submitted will appear on BISWeb? This is similar to PC Filing and paper filing. For more information, view our eFiling [FAQs](#).

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